

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 3rd March, 1901, at the Margaret Williamson Hospital, Shanghai, the wife of JOHN JURGENSEN, of a daughter.

On the 7th March, 1901, at 9, Pei-ta-ho Lane, Shanghai, the wife of JAMES HUTCHISON, of a son.

On the 9th March, at No. 16, Quinsan Road, Shanghai, the wife of Mr. P. A. PEREIRA, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 23rd February, 1901, at the Roman Catholic Church, Hankow, J. E. DA COSTA, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, to Mrs. CATHARINA BEATRICE DE JESUS.

On the 1st March, 1901, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, Shanghai, and afterwards at the residence of the bride, by the Rev. C. Goodrich, D.D., HUGH MACKINNON, late master of the steamer *Hsiayu*, to MARY ALICE AYER, M.D., of the American Presbyterian Mission, Soochow.

On the 4th March, 1901, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, Shanghai, by Byron Brenan, Esq., C.M.G., and afterwards at Trinity Cathedral by Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., ERNEST MORTIMER, only son of the late John Mortimer Thomas, Esq., of Shanghai, to NORAH MARGARET, younger daughter of Ernest Walter TINDALL, Esq., of Shanghai.

DEATHS.

On the 1st March, 1901, at Shanghai, MARY MUIR HUTCHISON, the wife of Archibald LANG, aged 40 years.

On the 6th March, at Singapore, Mrs. GEORGINA FERRAO, aged 68 years.

On the 5th March, at her residence, Ball's Court, Hongkong, EMMERIA MARIA, the beloved wife of Henrique L. NORONHA.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The American mail of the 9th February arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Doric*, on the 9th March (28 days); the French mail of the 10th February arrived, per M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, on the 13th March (30 days); and the English mail of the 15th February arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, on the 15th March (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Japanese have informed China that, whatever advantages Russia acquires in Manchuria, Japan will require the same in Fukien.

Mr. E. C. Ray courteously informed us on the 10th inst. that he had received a telegram from Messrs. Bush Brothers, of Newchwang, stating that the river was free from ice and open to navigation.

A reward of five hundred dollars has been offered by the British North Borneo Government for the discovery of coal on, or in the vicinity of, the railways to the north and east of Beaufort, Province Dent.

The United States in an identical note to the Powers last week declared that they deem it inexpedient for the Chinese Government to make an independent arrangement with any foreign power while peace negotiations are progressing in Peking.

The *Opinion* says that the French authorities intend to raise three more regiments of native infantry. This will bring up the strength of the army in Indo-China to 50,000 men. Rumour connects the increase with expected troubles in Cambodia and Siam.

H.M.S. *Barfleur* left Shanghai for Nagasaki on the 6th inst. and will return in about a fortnight. It is not unlikely, according to the *N.-C. Daily News*, that Admiral Seymour will go on from Hongkong to Singapore to meet the Duke and Duchess of York there.

It is reported from London that there is friction between the British and Russians at Tientsin respecting the construction of a siding on the Peking-Tientsin Railway. Mr. Kinder is said to have been ordered to proceed with the protection of an armed force, if necessary.

A despatch from Sir Charles S. Scott published with the permission of Count Lamadorff states that any agreement about Manchuria was merely in the nature of a *modus vivendi* between the Russian military and the Chinese civil authorities, and that Russia in no wise departs from her public pledges to evacuate Manchuria when feasible.

In the House of Commons this week Lord George Hamilton gave an explicit denial of the charges of pillage and plunder against the British troops in China. General Sir Arthur Gaslee, he said, had reported that looting was openly tolerated among certain of the Allied troops, but that he took effective measures to prevent the British from participating.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that, pursuant to instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the offices of Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General in Hongkong, held conjointly since the 28th March, 1895, will again be separated, and while the Hon. A. W. Brown is appointed Registrar-General, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., will continue to hold the office of Colonial Secretary.

The Peking correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* telegraphed on the 8th inst.:—The Legation Quarter has been settled in principle; the location of the Customs will be amicably arranged. The Embassy to Germany is delayed. The deputy appointed to the mission of condolence to London is not acceptable; meantime the reinterment of those who died in the Legations during the siege takes place to-morrow (Saturday).

The Welsh Fusiliers who are going North to relieve the Australian Naval Contingent at Peking embarked at 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon. Previously to the *Chingtu* leaving Douglas Wharf she was visited by H.E. Major-General Gascoigne and staff, while the band of the battalion (2nd Batt., R.W.F.), played them on board. By 4 p.m. all was ready for departure and the *Chingtu* left the wharf amid hearty cheering. She sailed from the Harbour on the following morning.

A *New Press* telegram, dated Peking, 4th March, says: There was a huge conflagration last night at the Summer Palace, Yuan-ming-yuan, at the foot of the Western Hills, five miles north-west from the Peking city wall. The celebrated Temple of One Thousand Years, which contained a colossal image of Buddha, is completely destroyed. The place was guarded formerly by Russians, and latterly by British and other troops of the Allied Forces, but it was not known how the fire originated. Boxer incendiarism is suspected.

A Peking telegram to the *New Press* (Shanghai) reports considerable difficulty with regard to the delimitation of the area proposed to be reserved for a foreign settlement in the Tartar City, Peking. The Chinese commissioners are holding out very stubbornly for the retrocession of all their government yamens in the vicinity of the Legation quarter. The Foreign Ministers claim that no Chinese places whatever, not even the Imperial Maritime Customs offices, can be allowed in that quarter. The difficulties on this point are becoming acute.

H.M.S. *Ocean* (Captain the Hon. A. G. Curzon Howe) arrived on Monday morning from Malta, which she left on the 2nd ult., and takes her place among the British battleships in this station. A sister ship of the *Glory* and *Goliath*, the *Ocean* is a first-class battleship of 12,950 tons displacement and 13,500 h.p. She was built at Devonport in 1900 at a cost of £281,248. Her armour is:—Side 6-in., bulkhead 12-in., and gun position 12-5-in., H.S. and deck-plating 3-2-in. Her guns are:—four 12-in., twelve 6-in. q.f., eighteen smaller q.f., and two light guns. She carries five torpedo tubes, of which four are submarine, has a speed of 18.25 knots, and a complement of 700 men. Her chief officers are: Captain, Hon. A. G. Curzon Howe, C.B., C.M.G.; Commander, A. G. Heaneker-Hughes; Lieutenants, P.D.A. de Saumarez, J. C. Ley, F.H.M. Jackson, A. E. Edwards, A. Cochrane, N. A. Sullivan; Lieut. R.N.R., J. M. Bugge; Capt. R.M., F. R. Boyle; Lieut. R.M., A. W. G. Bidings; Lieut. R.M., L. C. Lampson.

THE SHANSI ATROCITIES.

(Daily Press, 13th March.)

SomediscussionhasariseninShanghaiover the publication of details hitherto withheld of the Shansi atrocities in July and August last. The articles giving these details appeared in the *North-China Daily News*, and our contemporary, in reply to a correspondent writing over the title of "Disgusted," speaks as follows:—"Such details and many more have been in our possession for months, and they are so revolting that we have for a long time hesitated to publish any of them. But there has been a tendency, since it was found out that the foreigners in the Legations at Peking were not masacred, to discredit the reports of atrocities that have been only passed from mouth to mouth, and we think that it is right to publish this small part of the truth." No one reading the articles will deny that the *Daily News* is right in calling the details "revolting." For this reason we refrain from reproducing them or quoting from them. If the truth of the story is established beyond a doubt, it may be salutary to let it be known, in order to check the excessive reaction which has taken place since the misdeeds of the Allied troops in the North were made public. Undoubtedly when the suspense about the beleaguered foreigners at Peking had been happily ended and it began to leak out how the forces which came to avenge outraged civilisation had themselves been guilty in a great many cases of conduct which would disgrace barbarians, the easily influenced public of the Old and New Worlds were led to minimise the wrongs committed by the Chinese, and the truth of the case became again obscured. But is the evidence now published merely the statement of facts, which alone would justify the publication of so horrible a recital? Our contemporary's informant is a gentleman who received his account from a Chinese convert of seventeen years' standing, formerly a military mandarin. This latter did not himself witness the atrocities, but obtained his report from two native Christians whom he had sent round the mission stations in Shansi to collect what news they could of the murdered missionaries. We wish to cast no doubt on the good faith of any concerned in the enquiry, but it must be said that the evidence is very far indeed from first-hand, and those who scouted the statements of Dr. DILLON and other correspondents about the conduct of the foreign troops up north cannot with justice claim explicit credence for all the reports as to Chinese atrocities. To do so is to show bias, not discrimination.

But while we are not prepared to accept as undoubted facts the whole of the story told by the *North-China Daily News* contributor, the mere figures of losses suffered by the various missions in Shansi seem to us sufficient to stir the feelings of the most callous. The China Inland Mission has compiled statistics of the deaths among the various missionary societies, exclusive of Roman Catholics, during the Boxer rising. It appears from these that in Shansi and over the Mongolian border no less than 112 adults and 45 children were killed. The writer in our Shanghai contemporary to whom we have been referring expresses a fear that publicity with regard to the Shansi atrocities may "result in anti-missionary legislation or in frightening away workers from the China Mission field." If anti-missionary legislation means that the practice of sending women and children into the heart of China is to be stopped as far as it is possible, not "fear" but "hope" is the word which should be

used. We can conceive no excuse which the various evangelising bodies can bring forward for their part in the death of 28 British, 16 Swedish and 8 American children, beside a much larger number of women, in the most cases at the hands of savages as brutal as the Red Indians of the past or the Cossacks of the present. That such a practice has continued so long is an infamy. May it be hoped that among the good results of the horrors of last year there will be counted the prevention of this exposing to the worst of deaths of white women and children! The reform should proceed from the missionary bodies themselves. If it does not, the Governments concerned have a plain duty before them. All who wish well to missionary enterprise must trust that the Societies will not wait for legislation. Can the China Inland Mission, which has seen twenty children connected with its missionaries die; or the Christian and Missionary Alliance, which has lost fifteen children; or the other bodies, who are responsible for seventeen more—can these Societies continue to permit the sending of defenceless children, to say nothing of women who presumably go of their own choice, to a possible martyrdom and yet be considered worthy of respect? It is much to be regretted that we have as yet heard nothing of any steps being taken to prevent the repetition of the worst features of last year's massacres in the only certain way. The talk is still of the lesson which China has learnt. What is the lesson which the Missionary Societies have learnt? We note two facts bearing on this point in the February number of the Church Missionary Society. One is that the Society had called a public meeting in London on the 28th ult. on the subject of "Women's Work in China"; and the other that the number of women candidates for foreign service on behalf of the Church Missionary Society was less during last year than since 1895.

TIENTSIN RAILWAY TROUBLES.

(Daily Press, 15th March.)

In the brief statement telegraphed by our London correspondent about the friction existing at Tientsin between the British and Russians may be seen the possibility of an exceedingly awkward situation, which in the interests of peace in the North we must all hope to see averted. The incident is reported to have arisen over the construction of a siding on the Railway, which was handed back by the Germans to the British on the 21st ult. The position of affairs reached so acute a point that Mr. KINDER has been furnished with military support, to be used if necessary in carrying on his work. Our Tientsin correspondent wrote on the 16th ult. that it was understood Mr. KINDER and his civilian staff would take over the administration of the railway on former lines, though of course there would be military supervision for a long time and army supply would be the paramount duty of the managers. It seems probable that the trouble has arisen through the conflict of claims between the Railway contractors and the new demands of Russia for land on the river bank opposite the old Settlements. It was anticipated at the time when these demands were first made that difficulties might very possibly arise, particularly between the British and the Russians. A glance of the recent plans of Tientsin will show that an attempt on Russia's part to get a large extension of land on the further bank of the Peiho would soon bring them into collision with the Railway contractors. What

makes the situation look serious is that the British military authorities are apparently making a strong stand. The recent history of events at Tientsin has exhibited Great Britain for the most part acquiescing in the ignoring of her subjects' interests rather than risk a quarrel. The present display of vigour seems to indicate either a change of policy or that the aggression of our Russian allies was very gross. The Railway Company has suffered so much during the course of the troubles in North China, even if, as London telegrams suggest, the damage to the railway stock and plant has been exaggerated, that it is a welcome change to see their cause at last espoused by the Government to which they have to look for support.

EDUCATION IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 9th March.)

In his report on Hongkong in 1899 H.E. the Governor devotes a section to the subject of Education, which, in view of the recent discussion on the teaching of European children in the Colony, will be read with interest. Sir HENRY BLAKE writes of a state of affairs which is practically that which obtains now, though there have been additions to the number of smaller schools since the date at which the report was penned, and a new day-school, designed to accommodate 200 children, has been founded at Kowloon through the generosity of Mr. Ho Tung. We will follow the division of education under different heads which is adopted in the report. Firstly under the head of primary education there are two main classes:—schools where an English education is given (the only ones which need concern us now), and schools where a vernacular education is given. Each division may be subdivided under the three heads:—(1) schools entirely supported by Government; (2) grant-in-aid schools; (3) private schools. Of Government schools which give their pupils an education in English there are four, outside Queen's College. Education is free, and the majority of scholars are Chinese and Eurasians, with a few Indians. They are under the charge of native teachers capable of teaching up to the fourth standard. At the annual competitive examination of the four schools, four boys are selected for free scholarships tenable at Queen's College. In addition, the Beilios Public School for girls gives an English education to girls and a few boys too young to enter Queen's College. Eighteen grant-in-aid schools in 1899 gave an English education, and their grants depend on the results of yearly examinations. Nearly all are attached to some religious body, and, except the Diocesan School, St. Joseph's College, and Victoria English School, they only give a primary education. Of the new school at Kowloon, which is not contemplated, of course, in the report before us, the founder said on the 20th July last, the date on which the foundation-stone was laid: "I believe it to be a maxim that it is the duty of the State to provide primary education only. Secondary education does not, therefore, enter within the scope of the Kowloon school, which shall be a school in which an ordinary education shall be given of such a nature as to enable the scholars to enter in the ordinary course for the Oxford Local and similar examinations." The senior division of such examinations, however, is not contemplated, except perhaps in the remote future, when the senior certificate of either Oxford or Cambridge may come to be regarded as the proper leaving certificate to be obtained by

the pupils before they quit school. The number of private schools giving an English education, without Government inspection or a grant, fluctuates, but there were in 1899 seven properly called schools. The great object of those attending these schools, says the report, seems to be to get a smattering of English to enable them to find employment as shroffs, clerks, compositors, etc. As educational establishments proper they are hardly to be classed.

The line between primary and education, as Sir HENRY BLAKE remarks, is still more difficult to draw in Hongkong than in England, where the distinction is by no means clearly marked. Here no one institution pretends to give secondary education only. Queen's College, the Diocesan School, St. Joseph's College, and Victoria English School, all preparing candidates for the Senior Oxford Local Examinations, give a secondary education to a limited extent; but in all the great majority of the boys receive only a primary education. Queen's College has a staff qualified to give the higher education, but (says the report) the time is not yet ripe for it to be turned into a secondary education institution only. Education commences with the "ABC" and goes up to the Senior Oxford Local standard. The Belilios Public School also sends up pupils for the Oxford Locals, including the senior division. As we have seen, the Kowloon day-school also may ultimately send up pupils for the Senior Oxford Local and similar examinations. But this list exhausts the facilities for an English education beyond the primary stage. It will readily be seen, therefore, how well founded is the agitation which aims at securing for the Colony a school which will offer to the children of European parents resident here the opportunity of a sound education fitting them for the duties of life. It is in the fact that such an education cannot be obtained in the mixed schools with which Hongkong is well provided rather than in the actual objection to the mixing of different races that the strength of the appeal for a school for European children lies. That objection is in itself not to be lightly regarded, as there can be no doubt that it is felt by a large number of parents. The two reasons combined make up a case, the justice of which cannot be disputed. It is satisfactory to think that steps are now being taken for the adequate presentation of this case to the Government. Government support must ultimately in some form be given to such a school as is asked for. It is impossible to imagine that Hongkong will continue indefinitely to lag behind the rest of the European settlements in the East. We hope to see the existing state of affairs changed as soon as possible. To secure this result it is necessary in the first place that European parents should be firmly resolved to back up with all their strength the appeal when once it is put in a concrete form.

Singapore was officially declared infected with plague on the 27th ult., two fatal cases having occurred on the 25th. The *Straits Times* says:—It is rather an unpleasant fact that the first official Proclamation issued by Sir Frank Swettenham, as Acting Governor, should be one announcing that "the Settlement of Singapore is an infected area"—in other words, that this is a plague-stricken town. However, the cases are few and scattered at present; and, provided proper measures be taken for the suppression of the pest, there need be little fear of an epidemic. . . . But the suggestion to secure the services of Captain Winter from the military authorities, to help the very able civil medical staff in case of emergency, is thoroughly sound, as are the corollary proposals suggesting the immediate increase of the disinfecting and other subordinate staffs.

THE POLICE FORCE IN 1900.

(Daily Press, 12th March.)

The Annual Report of the Captain Superintendent of Police, the Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G., containing, as it invariably does, valuable tabulated criminal statistics for the year, is one of those public documents that will richly repay intelligent perusal. That for the year 1900 was published in Saturday's *Government Gazette*. The total of cases reported to the Police Authorities shows an increase of 850, or 9.42 per cent. over those of the previous year. This may, in part, be accounted for by the more complete control which had been established over the New Territory during the year under notice; but it is undoubtedly more largely attributable to the continued rampant lawlessness prevailing in the different prefectures of Kwangtung Province that touch our own possessions—a condition that will last as long as the present chaotic state of affairs exists in the North particularly, and throughout the whole eighteen Provinces of the Middle Kingdom generally. It is disquieting to learn that in nine only of the thirty-one reported gang robberies were arrests effected. But as twenty of the total number of this extremely grave form of crime occurred in the New Territory, it is highly probable that easy escape over the frontier rather than an inefficient detective staff is at the bottom of the matter. Gambling is regretably on the increase, and that in spite of unwonted vigilance on the part of the European section of the Detective Staff. Lotteries and other forms of gambling are known to be run on strict business lines by wealthy syndicates. It is these carefully organised bodies which give greatest trouble, and offer the most stubborn resistance to the efforts of the Police to break them up. From the revelations made some years ago in the Bribery Scandals in connection with the local Constabulary, it is easy to understand how powerful, widespread, and insidious is the baneful influence that such pernicious combinations wield, and how distressingly difficult it is to successfully cope with them. Quinquennial returns for 1891-5 and 1896-1900 clearly show, due allowance having been made for increased population, that although the total number of arrests for serious offences as detailed under nine heads has slightly diminished, yet the number of arrests made for murder, for robbery with violence from the person, for burglaries and larcenies from dwellings, all catalogued as serious offences, has latterly more than doubled in each instance. It is a notorious fact that for quite a number of years prior to 1899 the strength of the force under Mr. MAY's command had been much lower than it should have been. It will give considerable satisfaction to note that it was materially added to during the past year; although, looking at the wide areas of land and water that have to be patrolled and protected, and the immense value of the interests involved, it has not yet reached what may be fittingly termed the standard of safety if it is to meet the multitudinous duties that daily and hourly devolve upon it. The total number of enlistments for the year, European, Indian, and Chinese, was two hundred and twelve; from this must be deducted wastage to the number of one hundred and forty-seven caused by death, sickness, resignation, dismissal or desertion. There was thus a nett addition for the year of sixty-five men; and the most gratifying feature about this is that thirty-three, or the bigger half, were Europeans. This is progress in the right direction; and, provided that the proper

class of men can be attracted and induced to stay, is distinctly encouraging. There were vague and not altogether unfounded rumours, during the year that has just elapsed, of dissatisfaction among the men of all three nationalities in respect of pay and allowances. The root-causes of this discontent have, however, been mainly, if not wholly, removed. This statement is supported by inferences deducible from portions of paragraphs twenty and twenty-one of Mr. MAY's exhaustive Report. The conduct of the Indian and Chinese contingents was not as satisfactory as it might have been. Reports against men in the first-named class having practically doubled, with an average of nearly two per individual. Drunkenness, disorderly conduct, neglect of duty, gossiping and idling, all of which are serious breaches of discipline, were the gravest of their indiscretions. As the Captain Superintendent himself remarks, this is "far from satisfactory." The behaviour of the lukongs is "on the whole satisfactory;" though the reports against them have increased nearly 50 per cent., while nine hundred and fifty reports against four hundred and ten men works out well over two per man.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

(Daily Press, 14th March.)

The rejection by Great Britain of the United States Senate's amendment to the HAY-PAUNCEFOTE treaty, by which that treaty was to be "abrogated" or "superseceded" (the latter word was supposed to be less offensive to British susceptibilities), can hardly be regarded in the light of a surprise. There was a certain fear that our Government might invite a continuation of that policy on the part of the States to which Mr. SHEWAN feelingly alluded at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on Monday last, but indications have been freely given in the home papers that to yield to the Jingoism of the United States upper house in this matter would rouse a storm of indignation. The policy of compliance with all the demands which the Washington Government may be persuaded by the momentary exigencies of party rule to adopt appears at length to have wearied the home public. No change in our amicable feelings toward the United States is portended by this, but it has at last been realised that American regard for us has been by no means heightened by the anxiety our Government has shown to do everything it has been asked to do. It is true that in the Venezuela affair the reward of our complaisance was greater than it is wont to be, for by the arbitrators' award we got in some instances more than we claimed. This, however, has not been the rule, and the usual result of our yielding disposition has been to stir up the anti-British in the United States to flout us. It is likely that the news of the rejection of the Senate's amendment will create no small outcry among these people, and no doubt they will urge on President MCKINLEY to adopt a threatening attitude. With a mixture of false logic and undisguised animus they have already been supporting the action of the Senate for the past few months. We should prefer to think that President MCKINLEY will make a stand against the extreme Jingoism, but unfortunately no confidence is inspired by his wavering policy in the past, which has led him on occasions to employ toward Great Britain language not in accordance with diplomatic usages, while he has been assailed by the anti-British section as an Anglophil.

On every ground, and particularly to traders in the Far East, the speedy realisation of the Nicaragua Canal scheme is desirable. But on account of the universality of the interest in the scheme it is necessary that this scheme should be carried out to the satisfaction of the world, not merely of the extreme Imperial party of the United States of America. When a certain Mr. FORAKER succeeded in inserting in the Bill before the Senate words announcing that the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty is superseded, also that the amended treaty shall not be communicated to other Powers, nor shall they be invited to accede to it, a home contemporary justly denounced this as "the very insanity of Monroeism." The latest growth of American party government is a section of politicians who combine the new Imperialism with a clinging to the old Monroe doctrine, evolving a principle of "America for the United States, and the rest of the world in common." We fear that if the voice of such advisers be too loudly heard, there is a grave menace to the peace of the world. No serious statesman can associate himself with such a cry, but unfortunately serious statesmen seem none too common. Great anxiety will be felt as to how the sober and moderate section of the people of the United States will act at the present juncture. The irresponsible talk of the Jingoists can well be imagined and will be discounted; but there is a possibility of a rather strained position if the voice of moderation is altogether drowned for the time. Moreover, the commencement of operations on the Canal is likely to be seriously hindered. There is no doubt that a *modus vivendi* can be arrived at with a display of patience on both sides and a due regard for the interests alike of the United States and of the rest of the world. It is eminently desirable that at this time the moderate and responsible politicians should make themselves heard.

ARMY REFORM.

(Daily Press, 11th March.)

The British Government has revealed the outlines of the new scheme for the Army, as far as the numbers and composition go. The reforms in efficiency have still to come. The actual number which is to be added to our fighting force, it will be seen, is 126,500 in all. There are to be in future six army corps, of which three will always be kept in a state of readiness for foreign service. So far as the Regular Army is concerned the number of troops available will be brought up to the requisite point by releasing from garrison duty eight battalions now stationed in the Mediterranean. These will be replaced by five battalions drawn from India; native troops, it may be presumed, for Great Britain cannot afford to weaken more than temporarily her white army in the Dependency. It was a scheme, it will be remembered, of Lord BEACONSFIELD, to bring Indian troops to Malta, which created an outcry on the Continent at the time when it was proposed. The difference between the eight battalions to be withdrawn and the five brought from India is not directly accounted for, but possibly the Admiralty will be called upon as in the case of the smaller coaling stations, where the use of marines for garrison duty is to release five battalions in all of Regulars. Beside the recall of the battalions specified, the Army is to be strengthened by increases of the Militia and Yeomanry, and the auxiliary forces will then number 435,000, while the total army will be 680,000. For fuller details of the scheme before Parliament we must wait; but it will be seen

that no provision is made for actually adding to the number of regular troops at the disposal of Great Britain. No mention is made of the "ballotting" or conscription which was strongly advocated by some and much dreaded by others. We doubt whether the proposal will meet with the approval of the bulk of military critics, but it is obviously unfair to discuss it save as a whole, and we must therefore suspend judgment.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 8th March, 7.25 p.m.

Mr. Chamberlain has instructed General Dordard to apply the Ceylon mining laws to Weihaiwei, thus bringing the development of the new colony at last within measurable distance.

SHANGHAI, 10th March, 7.36 p.m.

Reports are current to the effect that General Tung Fuhshiang is collecting 20,000 men at Ninghsia, and that he is determined to prevent the Imperial Court from returning to Peking.

SHANGHAI, 13th March, 7.40 p.m.

Much uneasiness prevails among the Chinese in Shanghai, who still hesitate to ship any cargo north.

Hsianfu officials report that Yung Lu is the real author of the Russian agreement with China. He warned Liu Kung-yi, it is said, against protesting, lest he should spoil the international coup.

The Japanese have informed China that, whatever advantages Russia acquires in Manchuria, Japan will require the same in Fukien.

SHANGHAI, 14th March, 7.33 p.m.

Hsi Liang, Governor of Shansi, has been removed from his post, and Tsen, Governor of Shensi, has been appointed to Shansi. Tuan Fang has been appointed Acting Governor of Shensi.

A mass meeting of Chinese gentry and merchants from all provinces, residing in Shanghai, has been called here for to-morrow to protest against the Russo-Chinese agreement about Manchuria. They have sent telegrams to all the Viceroy and Governors, urging a strong protest to the Throne.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Monday afternoon, 11th inst., a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.)

Hon. J. H. STAWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. MEIGH GOODMAN, K.C. (Attorney-General).

Hon. C. McL. MESSER (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. B. SIL TAYLOR (Acting Harbour Master).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. J. THURBURN.

Hon. R. M. GRAY.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Hon. WELA YUK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following papers:—Report of the Director of the Observatory for the year 1900; report of

the Captain Superintendent of Police for the year 1900; and despatch respecting the proclamation of the accession of King Edward VII.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 10 to 16, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 4), and proposed its adoption.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS laid on the table the report of the proceedings of the Public Works Committee at a meeting held on the 25th Feb. The report was as follows:—

"The Chairman laid before the Committee a plan and estimate amounting to \$2,020 for a Crematorium suitable for burning carcasses, infected clothing, furniture, hospital refuse, &c., proposed to be erected near the Cattle Depot at Kennedy Town. It was unanimously agreed to recommend that a vote be taken for this work in the Supplementary Estimates for this year, in order that the work may be proceeded with at once.

"The Chairman, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid before the Committee for their opinion papers connected with a proposal to entrust the engineering of the Kowloon Water Supply scheme to Messrs. Denison, Ram & Gibbs. The Committee, after reading the correspondence, strongly recommended the acceptance of Messrs. Denison, Ram & Gibbs's offer, and that they be urged to proceed with the work, for which the necessary funds have been voted, as soon as possible. They consider this will prove more economical and satisfactory than waiting for the appointment of a special engineer from England, and likely to lead to the work being more quickly proceeded with."

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—With regard to the report of the Standing Law Committee on the Public Health Ordinance, I hoped to be able to lay an unanimous report on the table to-day, but at the last meeting of the Standing Law Committee two or three matters came up which were not quite agreed to. Therefore the report that I propose to lay on the table is that the Bill should be dealt with by the Council in the same manner as a Bill reported on by a Committee of the whole Council except as regards certain matters. The first is as to the definition of a new building; the second is as to the question dealt with in sub-sections 9 and 10 of section 23; and the third is as to the matters dealt with in sections 55a, 56d, and 56e. There is also a question under section 74 and possibly one or two other matters. I beg to give notice that at the next meeting of the Council I shall propose that the matters not agreed to by the Standing Law Committee be considered in Committee of the whole Council, unless in the meantime the Standing Law Committee can agree on the disputed points also.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

LIMEWASHING IN THE VILLAGES.

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS said—I have the honour to bring up for the approval of the Council a bye-law made by the Sanitary Board under sub-section 4 of section 13 of Ordinance 24 of 1887. The bye-law reads as follows:—"Any house, or part of a house, in the villages of Quarry Bay, Shauiwan, Stanley, Aberdeen and Aplichau which is occupied by members of more than one family, shall (unless specially exempted by the Sanitary Board) be cleansed and lime-washed throughout by the owner, to the satisfaction of the said Board, not less than twice in every year, namely, during the months of May and June and of November and December." Before this can become law it is necessary that it should be approved by the Legislative Council. The bye-law was very fully discussed at a meeting of the Sanitary Board, and was not carried by a unanimous vote. The majority of the members voted for it, but some members of the Board voted against it. The arguments urged against it were the poverty of the villages, the cost of lime-washing, and that the

resent was not the time to include these villages in the bye-law as to lime-washing. With regard to the poverty of the villages, the cost of lime-washing a house would be nothing very serious. I believe that such houses are referred to in this bye-law can be thoroughly limewashed at the cost of a dollar each. The cost of limewashing in the Public Works Department is 15 cents per hundred square feet. This includes labour, the cost of the lime, and the profit—which is no inconsiderable amount—made by our contractors. Going away with these costs I should think should be well within the mark in saying that 15 cents per hundred square feet would be the cost of lime-washing a room such as the one in which we are now assembled. I therefore think, sir, that the argument as to poverty does not apply. As to the contention that the present is not the time for including these villages within the bye-law, all I can say is that as lime-washing is acknowledged to be an advantage, I consider that the present is the best time for extending it to the whole colony. We all know, sir, that there are many things which prefer darkness to light for certain reasons. Among these things I think may mention bubonic plague and the anopheles mosquito, and the vermin that propagate and extend diseases. Lime-washing compels people to remove their furniture, to remove muddy garments hanging on the walls. People must, in fact, when lime-washing, empty their houses and clean away the cob-webs and rid of all the places where mosquitoes are fond of lying hidden during the day. In fact it seems to be generally accepted that the lime-washing has a salutary effect on houses. At the meeting of the Sanitary Board it was decided in favour of extending the bye-law to the villages in question that the owners and not the tenants are required to do the lime-washing. I think that that does away with the question of poverty of the villagers. The owners of houses are not so poor that they cannot afford a dollar or two dollars a year for lime-washing each of their houses once or twice a year. It was also pointed out that lime could be obtained free of cost, as collecting oyster-shells and burning them gives very good quality of lime can be obtained. It was also argued by one member of the Board that lime takes great interest in this question that lime is better than cure, and that Hong Kong had decidedly improved from a sanitary point of view since the bye-law as to lime-washing had been in force. I, therefore, propose that the Council approve of the bye-law as to lime-washing.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER asked that the continuation of the bye-law should be postponed till the arrival of the two Chinese representatives who had probably not noticed that the date of meeting had been altered from three o'clock to two o'clock.

The suggestion was adopted.

At the conclusion of the business, the Hon. Ho Kai had not appeared (he came just before the proceedings of the Finance Committee terminated), but the Hon. Wei A Yuk arrived.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER suggested that the continuation of the matter be postponed till the next meeting.

EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR asked the Director of Public Works what he had to say on the matter.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I have nothing to say, sir.

Hon. WAI A YUK said that possibly Ho Kai, who took a special interest in these matters, would have something to say on the matter. Probably, like himself, Dr. Ho Kai had mistaken the hour of the meeting.

The suggestion was agreed to.

THE HOUSE-DRAINING BYE-LAW.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I beg to move that the Council adopt the following amendment of the house-draining bye-law on the 1st August, 1890, which amendment has been passed by the Sanitary Board:—Law No. 18 of the House Draining Bye-Laws amended by the substitution of the words "unless the written permission of the Sanitary Board has first been obtained to lay it down" for the words "whenever possible" in the 3rd and 4th lines thereof. The bye-law at present exists provides that a

drain should be laid in a straight line "whenever possible." It is considered that the Sanitary Surveyor and officers of the Sanitary Board will be in a better position to enforce straight drains by substituting the words "unless the written permission of the Sanitary Board has first been obtained to lay it otherwise" for "whenever possible." I therefore beg to move that the Council adopt this bye-law.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

NEW TERRITORIES REGULATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the following resolution as to Ordinance No. 12 of 1899—Whereas, by section 6 of The New Territories Regulation Ordinance (No. 12 of 1899), it was enacted that the said Ordinance should remain in force for the period of one year from the date of its coming into operation, and for such further period or periods as might, from time to time, be determined by resolution of the Legislative Council.

"And whereas, by resolution of the said Legislative Council dated the 15th of March, 1900, it was resolved that the said Ordinance should be continued in force for a further period of one year, it is hereby resolved by this Council that The New Territories Regulation Ordinance, 1899, shall be again continued in force for the further period of one year from the 18th day of April, 1901, inclusive."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the resolution was carried.

DISCIPLINE IN THE CIVIL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the better enforcement of discipline among the subordinate staff in the Civil Medical Department.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE PUNISHMENT OF FLOGGING.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the punishment of flogging. He said the various Ordinances relating to flogging and whipping had, by the passing at intervals of different sections relating to this subject, got into a somewhat complicated condition, and it was desirable that an Ordinance should be passed consolidating the laws in their present state. As far as he was aware, there was no alteration whatever in the law as it now stood, the only object being to repeal the various Ordinances and re-enact their provisions in a simpler and clearer form. The Bill had been drawn up originally by the Chief Justice, and practically was his Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause, and on the Council resuming, no alterations having been made, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

RIGHTS OF NATURALISED PERSONS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Council go into committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal all Ordinances for the naturalisation of persons as British subjects within this colony, and to make provision for the preservation of the rights of such persons. The Bill, he said, had been read a second time on a previous occasion and consideration in committee deferred in order that, as certain persons had not taken the oath, the list should be gone over carefully. He thought it would be as well to insert the words "if living" in the third section after the words "shall respectively."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Council went into committee on the Bill.

On the Council resuming, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave notice that at the next meeting he would move the third reading of the Bill.

STANDING LAW COMMITTEE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL suggested that members of the Standing Law Committee should meet on Thursday next at half-past two o'clock—half-an-hour before the Council meeting—when he thought they would be able to settle any difficulties at present existing as to the Public Health Bill.

This was agreed to by the members of the Committee, and the Council thereafter adjourned till Thursday next at three o'clock.

MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council meeting, the Colonial Secretary presiding.

There were altogether seven minutes down for consideration, the first of which recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$2,020 for the construction of a cattle crematorium. The CHAIRMAN said—No doubt members of this Committee have read the discussions that took place on this question at the Sanitary Board. The Sanitary Board made recommendations to the Government that a cattle crematorium should be obtained. The matter was referred to the Hon. Director of Public Works, who was asked to frame an estimate of the probable cost, and as the result of his consideration of the matter I now bring this vote before you. If any member desires any further information, I am sure the Hon. Director of Public Works will supply it.

The Hon. J. J. KESWICK—I should like to know where it is to be placed.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—It is an essential that it should be as close to the Government cattle depots as possible, and my object is to place it close behind the cattle depot—possibly within a hundred yards of it.

The CHAIRMAN—In the neighbourhood of Kennedy Town?

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Yes.

The vote was agreed to.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$9,000 for the building of a school at Yau-mat.

The CHAIRMAN said that no doubt this vote would receive the approval of the committee, because it was really on the initiative of the hon. unofficial members that it was brought forward. This vote had not been included in the estimates for 1901 and the Unofficial Members had made a representation to the Governor, requesting that this important work might be taken in hand this year.

The vote was agreed to.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$235 for the purchase of a new typewriter for the use of the Colonial Secretary's Office.

The CHAIRMAN—If any hon. members have received letters from the office, they will agree that a new typewriter is an absolute necessity.

The vote was agreed to.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$265 to cover the cost of repairing No. 1. Police Launch.

The CHAIRMAN—Any information on this point will be furnished by the Hon. Captain Superintendent of Police. One of the cylinders of the launch has been damaged, and the cost of repairs amounts to \$265. There are no funds available in the Police Department to meet this expenditure.

The vote was agreed to.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote the sum of \$620 for the construction of an armoury for the police.

Agreed to.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$2,943.60 to defray the cost of purchasing certain furniture and sundry appurtenances, &c., in use at the Waglan Light Station, which was taken over by the Government on the 2nd instant.

The CHAIRMAN—In taking over the lighthouse, it was necessary also to take over the furniture, etc., contained therein, and to meet the expenditure thus necessitated the sum mentioned was required.

The vote was agreed to.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$300 to meet the increase in the pay of the junior assistants in the Belilios Public School.

The vote was agreed to.

This was all the business.

On Thursday afternoon, 14th inst., a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. MURPHY GOODMAN, K.C. (Attorney-General).

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

The Hon. Dr. HO KAR.—Then I beg to oppose the extension of this bye-law to the villages named. This bye-law was made by the Sanitary Board for the purpose of compelling the villages to comply with the bye-law made as regards the cleansing and lime-washing of premises in the city of Victoria. I oppose the extension because I believe that the application of the bye-law to the villages is unnecessary, and because it would be expensive and troublesome both to the Government and to the poor villagers. At the meeting of the Sanitary Board the bye-law was passed by the very narrow majority of one, the Captain Superintendent of Police and the Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer being in the minority. Lime-washing is considered one means of getting a house clean. No doubt it is when it is well done, and done according to a certain method, a method which I doubt very much whether the villagers would adopt. It is not merely cleaning the houses. If a bye-law to compel the villagers to clean their houses twice a year were introduced I would support it, but I oppose their being asked to clean their houses either by lime-washing or using disinfectants of any kind, because I do not believe lime-washing is absolutely necessary to enable people to keep their

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said—I may say with regard to this Bill that it was read a first time in January. After being gazetted it was

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen: Confably with our usual custom, I propose, your permission, to take the committee's report and secretary's accounts for the year 1864 read. Before proceeding to remark upon business matters which have occupied the attention of the Chamber during that year, I must dwell for a moment on the loss which has been sustained not only by the whole British nation, but also by all those whose interests are in any way bound up with Great Britain in the death of our beloved Queen, whose influence for good has been a blessing to the nation for 64 years. We have mourned her most sincerely and, feeling confident that we were giving expression to the unspoken wish of the whole commercial community, your committee made the suggestion to the Government that the day fixed for Her Majesty's funeral should be observed as a day of general mourning, all public offices being closed, and business suspended. This was adopted, and the consequent suspension of business and universal mourning fittingly marked the affection and esteem in which our late Queen was regarded by the whole population. Our report, you will have seen, deals with many subjects; but so far as it affects the internal trade with Ch

concerned it is almost a blank. The troubles in North China, which will render memorable the closing year of the past century in the history of foreign relations with the Celestial Empire, caused a practical suspension of the diplomatic intercourse with the Chinese Government, which has fled to Hsianfu, the distant capital of Shensi. Upon the dreadful massacres and outrages on Europeans, which culminated in the historic siege and heroic defence of the Legations at Peking, I need not enlarge; the details of that anxious time are too well known, too fresh in your recollection, to require recapitulation. Nothing more monstrous than the attack on the Legations in Peking is recorded in modern history. It is a matter for thankfulness that the movement against foreigners inaugurated in the North did not spread through the central and southern provinces, where the viceroys have displayed coolness and discretion, and have saved the situation. But although we may congratulate ourselves that the anti-foreign movement was confined to the northern provinces and was not a national uprising, still the condition of the southern provinces leaves much to be desired, and no room for doubt exists that the country in the Canton Delta is a very hotbed of piracy and blackmailing, which, in spite of certain fallacious reasoning to the contrary, cannot but act prejudicially upon trade, and which it should be the object of the Canton Government to put a stop to without further delay. It is satisfactory to reflect that the suggestion put forward by certain Powers for the withdrawal of the Allied Troops from Peking in August last was not carried out, and that the powers have presented a united front in their determination to insist upon the punishment of the guilty officials. Protracted and weary negotiations have now apparently resulted in the reluctant acceptance by the Chinese Government of the terms formulated by the foreign ministers, and it is understood that the Emperor and Court intend shortly to return to Peking, where it is to be hoped they will in future be free from the evil influence which has poisoned their councils during recent years. When it comes to actual settlement, there is reason to hope that the terms will include the arrangement of all outstanding questions, claims and grievances, the removal of illegal duties on imports, the abolition of injurious monopolies, and cessation from the continual harassment of trade by squeezing mandarins. Foremost among these we look to and must press for the abolition of *lekin* and the various exactions levied on foreign goods after leaving the Treaty Port. What we have specially to contend for is the imposition of one duty on landing which will frank the goods to any portion of the interior. Another change required, and we trust the Foreign Ministers will insist upon this, is the abolition of the dual system of customs which has for so many years had a baneful effect upon the riverine trade. The Imperial Maritime Customs should be entrusted with the collection of all customs duties, and a proportion of the revenue received, in the ratio of their individual trade, should be paid over to the various provincial governments to compensate them for the change. All this is a matter of arrangement and if carried out would result in a gain to both the Imperial and Provincial Exchequers by saving a vast amount of leakage and wasteful collection, while it would at the same time, by regulating the taxation on the merchandize, lead to a large development of trade in both imports and exports. You will observe that during the year a good many subjects of local importance have come up and have been dealt with by the Committee. Among these may be mentioned the Amendment of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, which was recommended and adopted. Also the registration of the partners in Chinese firms, which your Committee advocated concurrently, with the result that the Governor has appointed a committee to consider the advisability of introducing a Bill into the Legislative Council for the purpose. Mr. Robert Shewan has been appointed a member of this committee, as representative of the Chamber, and it is intended to thoroughly thresh out the subject. There can be no doubt that the measure is required for the prevention of fraud, and its introduction will, I trust, be greeted with satisfaction by the bulk of the

Chinese trading community. An influential petition in favour of such registration was presented by Chinese merchants and traders here to the Registrar-General in 1882 and the reasons for that action obtain still. It will no doubt be one of the duties of the Committee to ascertain the views of the Chinese on the question at the present time. A proposal for the creation of a monopoly for the collection of ashes in the harbour which was submitted to the Committee by the Government seemed to them a rather retrograde step, and calculated to aggravate the evils it was hoped it would abolish, and I believe that the Government have recognized the cogency of the arguments of the Chamber on this subject and abandoned the idea. An opinion was also asked by Government as to the desirability of improving the lights at the approaches to the harbour by the substitution of the Cape D'Aguilar for the Green Island light, and that of Green Island for the one displayed on Cape Collinson. The Committee strongly approved the project, but went somewhat further and suggested that both lights should be of an occulting or flash description instead of merely fixed lights, which have on occasions been mistaken for ship's lights. It is understood that the question has been referred home for expert opinion, but the fact remains that nothing has yet been done, which forms another example of how a useful measure can be needlessly delayed. A suggestion having been offered by Mr. Marshall for the better control of the Chinese masters and engineers of steam-launches by adopting a system of continuous record certificates, the question was brought to the notice of the Government, who appointed a Committee in October last to investigate it. Messrs. Marshall and Law represented the Chamber thereon, the result being that a record is now kept in the Harbour Office setting forth the dates of each engagement and discharge of each certificated native master or engineer, together with the reason for discharge and all complaints and charges against him, together with any punishments inflicted by the Harbour Master or Marine Magistrate. This measure was urgently needed to establish a check on discharged and worthless men from obtaining immediate employment after being dismissed for neglect, dishonesty, or incompetency. Quarantine restrictions have again subjected the shipping trade to a very serious loss, which loss, owing to the annual recrudescence of the plague, appears likely to prove a permanent impost of a most oppressive character. The establishment in this Port of a Fumigating and Disinfecting Bureau has been made the occasion of an effort to secure some relaxation from the Government of the Straits Settlements of the restrictions imposed on the Chinese passenger traffic with the ports of that colony. In referring to the Fourth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, held in London in June last, at which a great variety of interesting questions of immense importance to the trade of the British Empire were discussed, our cordial thanks for his effectual advocacy are due to Sir Thomas Jackson, who most efficiently represented this Chamber, and took charge of all the resolutions proposed by the Chamber, Mr. Whitehead being unable to reach London in time to fulfil the part which he had been good enough to undertake. (Hear, hear, and applause.) In connection with the subjects that were discussed at the Congress, it is gratifying to learn that the much vexed question of the reduction of cable rates has made some substantial progress, the companies, yielding to the pressure of public opinion, having decided to gradually reduce the tariff from 4s. 9d. to 2s. 6d. per word, subject to the standard traffic being maintained. This is a step in the right direction, however influenced, and it will probably result in any temporary loss being fully made good by an increased traffic. Other subjects of interest dealt with in the report hardly require a lengthy reference. The contract between the British Imperial Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for carrying the Canadian Mails has, after negotiations, been renewed for five years. (Hear, hear.) Further correspondence has been carried on with the Government with regard to the Eastern Mail subsidy, with what result we have yet to learn, also with the Colonial Office with reference to the Canadian

Preferential Tariff, and with the Amoy Chamber and the British Minister at Tokyo on the subject of the discriminating duty levied on tea in Formosa, with a view to diverting the trade from its accustomed channel, through Amoy and Hongkong to Japanese ports. At our last annual meeting Mr. Herbert Smith was elected to fill the vacancy in the Legislative Council caused by Mr. Whitehead's absence on leave, but he resigned in the course of two months when the Chamber elected Mr. J. Thurnburn, who still represents us, pending the return of Mr. Whitehead. There have been few changes in the committee since its election. Mr. Herbert Smith was replaced by Mr. D. R. Law and Mr. H. M. Bevis by Sir Thomas Jackson on his return from England. You will have to elect a new Committee to-day. Several of the present members do not seek re-election, amongst whom I may mention, Mr. D. R. Law and myself, as I am leaving the colony next week. In regard to the Secretaryship, I have only to tell you that the work of the Chamber has been carried through with the same care and energy that we have become accustomed to from Mr. Wilcox for some years, and I do not think that I can say anything higher in his praise than that. You will observe from the report that we have lost five members by resignation during the past year, three of whom have left or are leaving the colony, and we have gained three members, so the roll is being fairly maintained. Our financial position has continued to improve, and since the report was drawn up a further sum of one thousand dollars has been added to the reserve fund, which now reaches the respectable figure of \$14,000. (Hear, hear, and applause.) In taking my leave of this Chamber of Commerce, while congratulating the members upon its vitality, I may venture to express the opinion that, so long as it does not travel out of its own sphere of watching over and protecting commercial interests, it will continue to be a valuable body for the Government of Hongkong to consult, and also be capable of exercising much influence for good on behalf of all foreign commercial interests in China. It has become apparent that all Governments recognise more clearly every year what an important factor commerce is in the affairs of nations, and while doing so are more inclined to listen to the opinions and views of those engaged in it. I do not recollect, gentlemen, any other point requiring remark from me now, but, before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, the Committee will be glad to hear any questions or observations which members may desire to make. (Applause.)

After a pause, the CHAIRMAN said—There being no observations, I beg to propose the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. SHEWAN—Gentlemen, it gives me very great pleasure cordially to second the adoption of the report of the committee. I am glad to see from the report, that you have resisted what I may call some attempts at grandmotherly legislation which would I think have been detrimental to trade and hurtful to the business of this colony. On the other hand I am rather sorry to see that you appear to have agreed with the objections of the Postmaster-General to the imperial penny postal rate—objections which, in spite of his pathetic lament over the loss of some \$19,000, seem to me to be rather small-minded. Your representative at the Congress of Chambers of Commerce in London was Sir Thomas Jackson, and it goes without saying that that part of the work was well done. (Hear, hear.) The amendment to the Bankruptcy Ordinance will, no doubt prove very valuable, but I was rather amused when I read it and saw its use of the term "partners." I wondered if the committee had the same opinion as myself when I attended the first sitting of the Commission to which you did me the honour to nominate me as to the registration of Chinese firms. I supposed then, that the word "partner" was clearly understood, but I found to my surprise that the legal profession, I suppose to enhance the value of their services, have not yet made up their minds as to what constitutes a partner in a firm. It is ordinarily understood that when a man puts money in a firm and receives a share of the profits in return he is a partner. To be told that this does not make a man a partner is a little puzzling. Only lawyers should use terms which they cannot define and which only lead

to further litigation and to the general bedeviling of our time, temper, and money. It is no use crying over spilt milk. I suppose, but I cannot help feeling that the committee might have protested much more strongly than they have done against the way in which the interests of this colony are being injured by what I cannot help calling the selfishness of the naval and military authorities. (Hear, hear) I cannot believe that there was any reason why our fine Praya should have been spoilt and the east end cut off from the west by a dock which is being built in the very heart of the town. Our naval and military establishments occupy some of the most valuable sites in a crowded district. Even to-day a great economy could be effected by their transfer, bag and baggage, to the other side of the harbour. I suppose there must be a new system of tactics. It certainly is new to me that the defenders of a city should hide themselves in the middle of the city. Hitherto they have generally been on the outskirts to meet their enemy. (Hear, hear). In other respects, gentlemen, I think the committee have earned our thanks. The year's record is one of work very well done. Politically, we know the Chamber can do but little. We live in a Crown colony, and are governed by officials who have so often to fill other acting appointments that they have little opportunity to take any interest in what they have to do, and who distrust their own laws so much that they have a protector of Chinese amongst their number though what the Chinese have to be specially protected against in a British colony I have not been able to understand. There was a time when an English statesman could proudly declare that wherever an Englishman went the strong arm and the watchful eye of England were above him; but *tempora mutantur et homines*, and to-day we poor merchants in China feel that while the watchful eye can see no further than Africa's golden sands, we have been thumped on the head by "the mailed fist" of Germany, and kicked in another part of our anatomy by the hobnailed boot of America. (Laughter.) Before I sit down I would like to pay a tribute of respect to our departing Chairman. It is the fashion in Hongkong to give testimonials to every one who goes away, but Mr. Gray has earned some testimonial in some shape or form. He has worked hard, and taken a deep and sincere interest in the work of the Chamber during the past five years in which he has occupied the chair. I think we all owe him a great debt of gratitude for the time which, busy man though he is, he has given us so freely. (Applause) There is nothing more for me to say except that we must all aim at getting a better representation on the Government of the colony. We must agitate, agitate, agitate, until we realise the ideal of government of the people by the people, and for the people. (Applause)

The CHAIRMAN said he thanked Mr. Shewan very much for his kind words. It was very gratifying indeed to find one's work appreciated. The work had been to him a pleasure, and after all he had been but the mouthpiece of the Committee, assisted greatly as he had been by the help of the Secretary, in having the services of whom he congratulated them thoroughly.

The motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The confirmation of the list of new members is the next business before us. I beg to propose that the election of the following new members be confirmed:—The Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited; the Green Island Cement Company, Limited; Messrs. Watkins, Limited.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. HOUGH—Is it in order to propose new members without giving notice?

The CHAIRMAN—I think there is no objection to propose new members.

Mr. HOUGH—Then I beg to propose Messrs. Pumphrey, Lowther & Co.

Mr. SHEWAN—I second it.

The CHAIRMAN put the motion to the meeting and declared it to be carried on a show of hands.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business, gentlemen, is the election of a new general committee. A ballot will be taken and you are requested to fill in the names on the papers which will be handed round to you.

The voting papers were then passed round the meeting, and on their being collected Messrs. Moses and Playfair acted as scrutineers. The following was the result of the ballot: Sir Thomas Jackson, Chairman, Mr. C. S. Sharp, Vice-Chairman, Messrs. A. Haupt, Hon. J. J. K. Swick, A. M. Marshall, W. Poate, R. L. Richardson, H. E. Tomkins, N. A. Siebs, members of the Committee.

This concluded the business.

The following was the Report:—

Owing to the troubles in North China, which led to a suspension, for some time, of diplomatic relations with the Chinese Government, and which cannot be fully resumed until a settlement has been arrived at for the murders and hostilities of the past year, several questions of commercial interest, which have long engaged the attention of your Committee, have perforce been postponed. Many matters of importance to trade have, however, come under their notice, and received their careful consideration, with good effect in most cases, especially in local questions, the Colonial Government having shown a willingness to meet the views of the Chamber thereon.

TARIFF REVISION IN CHINA.

The contingent probability that the Revision of the Tariff would either be included in or follow the settlement of the terms of peace between China and the Treaty Powers, induced your Committee to address a communication in December last to the British Minister at Peking, reminding him of the promise of his predecessor (Sir Claude Macdonald) that no change in the Tariff would take place without previous consultation with the Chambers of Commerce at Hongkong and Shanghai. To this a reply was promptly received from Sir Ernest Satow to the effect that he would be glad to receive an expression of this Chamber's views at an early date, although it was probable the revision of the Tariff would not come under immediate consideration.

THE CRI IS IN CHINA.

In August last, a report having been circulated by Reuter that it had been proposed by certain Powers to withdraw the Allied Troops from Peking before the punishment of the guilty officials had been secured or a stable Government re-established, this Chamber despatched a telegram to the London Chamber of Commerce strongly deprecating such action and asking it to bring the matter to the notice of the Foreign Office, following up the telegram with a letter enlarging on the evils that would follow such a step. The Chairman of the East India and China Trade Section of the London Chamber (Mr. W. Keswick, M.P.) lost no time in forwarding a copy of the telegram to Lord Salisbury, and vigorously supported the protest. To what extent this representation, with others of similar tenor, influenced the British Government, your Committee of course have no means of knowing, but it is none the less satisfactory to note that the suggestion for the withdrawal of the Troops was without effect, and they still remain on guard in the Chinese Capital pending settlement of the terms of peace and the re-establishment in that city of orderly rule.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC MAIL CONTRACT.

An expression of opinion as to the desirability of the renewal of the contract between the British Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the carriage of mails from Hongkong by way of the Pacific and Vancouver at its expiry in May next, your Committee at its meeting on the 18th April, passed a resolution in favour of the renewal of the contract, if possible with an accelerated and fortnightly service. It is satisfactory now to learn that the contract with the Company has been renewed by the Imperial Government for a period of five years.

THE SHIPMENT OF JAPANESE SO-CALLED SAFETY MATCHES.

Two cases of fire on board steamers having occurred in the harbour through the spontaneous combustion of so-called safety matches made in Japan, the Acting Harbour Master submitted to the Government the advisability of declaring these matches dangerous goods and restricting the carriage of them to vessels not carrying more than twenty passengers. The suggestion was referred to the Chamber, and your Committee, after consideration, in view of the interference with trade involved, deprecated this action until representations had been made

to the manufacturers with a view to exercising more care in the production of the matches. This was done through communications to the various Chambers of Commerce in Japan, and no further complaints appear to have been made of the goods as dangerous.

DELAY IN FORWARDING MAILS TO MANILA.

Postal grievances, though not wholly abolished, have been less conspicuous during the past year. In April last a complaint was made by the Manila Chamber of Commerce of unnecessary delays in the forwarding of mails on from Hongkong, and this was promptly transmitted to the Postmaster-General, by whom steps were taken to prevent a recurrence of the grievance, with apparently satisfactory results.

THE REPRESSION OF PIRACY ON THE WEST RIVER.

Piracy is still rampant on the West River, and very recently a house-boat containing a party of foreigners from Canton was attacked and several of them wounded, while one of their native boatmen was killed, before the pirates were driven off. This, too, in spite of more frequent patrolling by gunboats of various nationalities. In April last a suggestion from Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Seymour having been submitted to the Chamber for the selection of one route between Samshui and the sea by foreign steamers in order the more efficiently to protect it, this suggestion was laid before the Steamboat Companies, who selected the one most generally in use, viz., by Wangmoon, Sailam and Junction Channels and the West River between Kongmoon and Samshui, and the Naval Authorities accordingly adopted this route.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE WEST RIVER AT LAK-LAO.

A foreign steamer having been stoned by the populace at Lak-lao when passing that place, the Viceroy, in reply to representations on the subject, stated that the river was tortuous and narrow at this point, and moreover crowded with boats, collisions with which were unavoidable if passed at full speed, and he suggested therefore that steamers should, when passing this town, slow down. This suggestion was recommended by Vice-Admiral Seymour and was brought to the notice of the Steamboat Companies by the Committee.

PROPOSED MONOPOLY FOR THE COLLECTION OF ASHES.

The erection in the Colony of Chinese monopolies has always been regarded by this Chamber with disapproval, and when the Government, having received a tender for the sole privilege of collecting ashes from steam vessels within the Harbour limits, sought the opinion of your Committee as to the desirability of creating such a monopoly, they strongly deprecated its creation, and the proposal was dropped.

THE REDUCTION OF CABLE RATES.

The question, which was before the Fourth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, at its sitting on the 29th June, when a strongly worded resolution was passed, has now advanced materially owing to the new Pacific cable having been decided upon and a tender for its construction accepted. At the last annual meeting of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, the Chairman announced that arrangements had been made for the gradual reduction of the tariff, subject to the standard traffic being maintained, from 4s. 9d. to 2s. 6d. per word. The laying of the new Pacific cable, which will, it is expected, be open to traffic at the end of the present or beginning of next year, has no doubt largely influenced this reduction in rates, which will prove very beneficial to trade in the Far East.

THE CANADIAN PREFERENTIAL TARIFF.

With regard to this question, some further correspondence has passed with the Government, who in July last forwarded a letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, calling attention to Section 10 of the Memorandum of the Preferential Tariff Regulations, stating that this seemed to him to meet the chief point raised by this Chamber. The Committee, while expressing their thanks for the information thus conveyed, urged that it brought the Colony no nearer the desired privilege, and repeated the request that Hongkong be placed on the list of colonies entitled to share in the benefits of the Preferential Tariff levied by the Dominion Government on goods manufactured from local products. To this no reply has, so far, been received.

HONGKONG HARBOUR LIGHTS.

The Hongkong Government having had under consideration the advisability of transferring the light formerly exhibited at Cape D'Aguilar to the Green Island Lighthouse and the light at present on Green Island to Cape Collinson, with the view of improving these lights and thereby providing for the more efficient lighting of the approaches to the Harbour, in August last requested the opinion of the Chamber upon the proposed transfers. The Committee, after inquiry and consideration, expressed the opinion that the advantages to be gained would greatly outweigh the cost, and added a recommendation in favour of the substitution of flash or revolving lights for the fixed ones hitherto employed in the lighthouses named. The change has not yet been effected, but it is understood that a recommendation has been received from Trinity House in favour of the use of occulting lights, which will no doubt be substituted for those now in use.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE BANKRUPTCY LAWS.

In July last, a judgment delivered by His Honour the Chief Justice in the Bankruptcy Court of Hongkong, in which it was laid down that, according to the provisions of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891, Chinese Traders or others non-resident in the Colony, although carrying on business therein under a firm's name, either by themselves or in co-partnership with others, are beyond the reach of that enactment, made it apparent that the law as it stood did not afford that protection to creditors which was intended by its framers. The defect was brought to the attention of the Committee, who received most valuable assistance from the legal profession, and addressed the Government with a view to the amendment of the Ordinance, forwarding a draft Bill for the purpose, which Bill has been passed by the Legislative Council.

PROPOSED REGISTRATION OF PARTNERS IN CHINESE FIRMS.

In connection with, and as a corollary to, the Bill for the amendment of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891, your Committee made a strong recommendation to the Government in favour of legislation to provide for the compulsory registration of the partners in Chinese hong or firms trading in this Colony. His Excellency the Governor, recognising the importance of the question, has appointed a Committee to consider the advisability of introducing a Bill into the Legislative Council for the purpose, on which one member of the Chamber and its Representative in the Council have been selected to serve. Efforts were made a quarter of a century ago to secure the same object by legislation, but were abandoned for causes that no longer exercise the same effect. Your Committee are of opinion that a Bill to secure registration of partners in Chinese firms will now meet general approbation, not only the British and Foreign but also the Chinese community.

THE EASTERN MAIL SUBSIDY.

Further communications on the question of the Colonial contribution to the subsidy paid to the P. & O. S. N. Co. for the Eastern Mail Service have passed, the Government forwarding to the Chamber on the 30th August a copy of correspondence between the Colonial Office and the Treasury, and of an award given by the Earl of Morley as Arbitrator upon the questions which arose as to the proportion of the cost of the service to be borne by the Government of India. The Chamber were also invited (if they so desired) to supplement the remarks made in their letter of the 5th June, 1897. This invitation was availed of by your Committee to emphasise and reiterate the arguments used against the mileage basis being adopted to estimate this Colony's share of the mail subsidy and to bring forward certain new arguments developed by events since their original protest was addressed to the Imperial Government.

FOURTH CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

This Congress, which was held on the 28th to 29th June, 1900, and proved a great success, was attended by the Chamber's Delegate, Sir Thomas Jackson, Kt., who moved and spoke at length upon the Chamber's resolution on the Chinese Inland Waters Navigation Regulations on the 28th, moved the resolution in favour of a re-survey of Eastern Seas by the British

surveying vessels on the 29th, and seconded the resolution moved by Sir Edward Sassoon in favour of a reduction in cable rates. The hearty thanks of the Chamber are due to Sir Thomas Jackson for the readiness with which he stepped into the breach and took charge of the two resolutions which were to have been moved by the Hon T. H. Whitehead (who was prevented by unavoidable circumstances from being present at the Congress), and for the efficient manner in which he advocated the questions dealt with.

THE RE-SURVEY OF EASTERN SEAS.

The resolution moved by Sir Thomas Jackson in the Fourth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire at its sitting on the 29th June, was subsequently conveyed to the Marquess of Salisbury in a letter signed by the President and Secretary of the Congress, and a copy of the reply thereto was transmitted to this Chamber under date of 31st August. The resolution had been referred by the foreign office to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, who returned a rather indignant reply, declaring that for sixty years vessels had been sent to the Eastern Seas to make surveys, that the greater portions of these seas had been charted, that the main routes through the China Sea and along the China Coast are now as confidently navigated as any part of the world, and that the Congress must have been misinformed as to the knowledge of these seas possessed by the Admiralty, which though not perfect is still so far advanced that no re-survey of main routes is necessary. The Secretary of the Congress therefore requested to be supplied with some further information on the subject in order that he might communicate with the Foreign Office. This was done as promptly as possible, and a list of uncharted dangers discovered in these seas during the past seven years was forwarded with the Chamber's reply.

THE BETTER CONTROL OF NATIVE MASTERS AND ENGINEERS OF STEAM-LAUNCHES.

Recent legislation having made the owners of steam-launches in Hongkong responsible for acts of piracy committed by their craft, no matter whether the crews are implicated in the act or not, and the masters and engineers having shown themselves but little amenable to control, the Chamber was during last October asked to address the Government on the question of the advisability of adopting a system of continuous record certificates, the result being that the Governor appointed a Committee to consider the matter, two members representing the Chamber (Messrs. A. M. Marshall and D. R. Law) being included thereon. The Committee, having investigated the question, recommended in their report that a record be kept in the Harbour Office setting forth the dates of each engagement and discharge of each certificated launch master and engineer, together with reason of discharge and all complaints and charges against him and punishments awarded by the Marine Magistrate or Harbour Master, such record to be open to inspection by launch owners or their representatives.

QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS.

The Colony of Hongkong again suffered heavy losses last year by reason of the quarantine imposed at Singapore and other places against arrivals from Hongkong. Although the plague had long ceased to be epidemic, the restrictions were not relaxed until November last, after ten clear days without a case of plague had elapsed, notwithstanding the appeals made by this Chamber to the Government to issue a clean bill of health for the port.

THE PUBLICATION OF QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

In January, 1901, several vessels arriving here from Singapore were heavily fined for technical breaches of quarantine regulations, in omitting to hoist the yellow flag before entering the harbour limits, the masters pleading ignorance of the fact that quarantine had been imposed at this port on vessels arriving from Singapore. Representations were made to the Government praying that greater publicity than the pages of the *Government Gazette* afford might be given to these notifications, and asking that printed notices might be sent on board each steamer at Singapore.

AMOY AND THE FORMOSA TEA TRADE.

Further correspondence on the discriminating duty levied in Formosa on tea if shipped otherwise than to a Japanese port has passed between

the Amoy and Hongkong Chambers of Commerce with the British Minister in Japan, but so far without any beneficial effect. Sir Ernest Satow takes up the position that the British Minister can only intervene on behalf of the tea shipped to Great Britain, the Colonies and India; that destined for the United States he considers an American interest. The position assumed by the Amoy Chamber is that the trade having been created by and being in the hands of British merchants, that trade is a British interest, no matter where the merchant's constituents reside.

THE REVISED FRENCH CUSTOMS TARIFF AND COLONIAL PRODUCE.

Certain changes in the French Tariff, which were originally intended as an act of reprisal against Brazil, were submitted by the Colonial Office through the local Government to this Chamber, but your Committee could not see that the changes made would to any extent affect imports or exports here, and therefore had no suggestions to offer. It has, however, been suggested by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Foreign Office that as French products are admitted free to this port, exceptionally favourable treatment should be accorded in France and French Indo-China to goods imported there from Hongkong.

SCHEME FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE NAVIGATION OF THE YANGTZE.

When passing through the Colony in September last, Sir John Lister Kaye, Bart., submitted to the Committee his scheme for the improvement of the navigation of the Upper Yangtze, by creating a Conservancy Board with powers to remove obstructions in the rapids, &c., to control the traffic, to provide a fleet of fast launches for towing junks, and to levy a toll to secure interest on outlay. The Committee, after examination of the scheme, as set forth in his petition to the Tsung-li Yamen, while unable to offer an opinion on the details, returned a reply to the effect that the removal of the existing obstructions to the navigation of the Yangtze would prove of advantage to trade generally.

SUGGESTED BRITISH COMMERCIAL COMBINATION.

With reference to the above changes in the French Tariff, which will operate prejudicially against produce raised in India and some of the British Colonies, a proposal has been received from the United Planters' Association of Southern India to join in a movement for a commercial combination of Great Britain, her Colonies and India, against the world by a system of differential duties which would afford some protection to British grown products and manufactures. The Committee could not see their way to join in such a movement and replied to that effect.

THE DEATH OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

The deeply lamented death of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, which took place on the 22nd January, plunged the Colony into profound gloom, and your Committee, feeling that the occasion of this illustrious sovereign's funeral should be observed as one of national mourning, addressed a letter to the Government suggesting that the Public Offices should be closed and all business suspended. This course was adopted most fully, and there was such a complete suspension of business as had never been witnessed in the Colony since its foundation.

PROPOSED REGISTRATION OF SERVANTS IN HONGKONG.

A proposal made by the Honourable the Captain Superintendent of Police to the Government to re-enact the provisions of Ordinance 7 of 1866 relating to the registration of domestic servants, together with suggestions to attach a photograph of the holder to the certificate and to deposit one in the register, with penalties for non-observance both to employers and servants, has been submitted to your Committee for an opinion as to the advisability of re-enacting the Ordinance. The Committee considered the matter at their meeting in February, and arrived at the unanimous conclusion that the project was inadvisable and probably impracticable.

SUNDRY CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence dealing with the Appointment of British Commercial Agents abroad and Certificates of Origin of Goods imported into Japan will be found in Appendices V and Z.

THE CHAMBER'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Mr. Herbert Smith, who on the departure on leave of the Hon. T. H. Whitehead last April was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Legislative Council, having resigned the seat in June, the Chamber were then again invited by the Officer Administering the Government to select another member, and at a special general meeting held on the 18th of that month nominated Mr. J. Thurburn, of the Mercantile Bank of India. Mr. Thurburn has since represented the Chamber in Council, and will continue to do so until the return of Mr. Whitehead.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The changes in the personnel of the Committee have been fewer than usual. Mr. Herbert Smith resigned his seat on leaving the Colony in June last, and Mr. D. K. Law was invited to fill his place. Mr. H. M. Bovis, who left here in October last, was replaced by Sir Thomas Jackson, on his return from England.

MEMBERS.

During the year five resignations have been received from Members, viz., The Yuen Fat Hong, Mr. W. F. Wenyon, Messrs. Hartigan, Stedman and Rennie, U. Nervegia & Co. and Mr. Jas. McKie. The following have been admitted to membership, subject to confirmation at the annual meeting:—The Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Limited, the Green Island Cement Co., Limited, Messrs. Watkins & Co., Limited.

FINANCE.

The accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1900, have been audited by Messrs. J. Y. V. Vernon and Murray Stewart. The balance at credit of the Chamber, after transferring \$2,000 to Reserve Fund, was \$674.06. The Reserve Fund stood at \$13,000, of which \$11,000 is on deposit in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and \$2,000 is vested in Debentures. The Pinnacle Rock Fund has again been further increased by the accruing interest, and now stands at \$3,730.27.

PROPOSED PRIVATE NURSING INSTITUTION FOR THE COLONY.

A movement that should command undivided interest and support assumed an important step on Saturday, 9th inst., when, shortly after noon, a representative and well-attended public meeting was held in the City Hall to consider the advisability of forming a private nursing institution in the colony, the object of the proposed institution being to obtain from Home nurses whose services shall be available for this community. Amongst those who attended were Lady Blake, Mrs. Gascoigne, Sir Thomas Jackson, Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Hon. J. J. Keswick, Right Rev. Bishop Hoare, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Mr. W. A. Cruickshank, and others.

Dr. Stedman, on the motion of Mr. CRUICKSHANK, was unanimously elected to the chair.

In his address Dr. STEDMAN said:—Ladies and gentlemen, you know from the circulars that have been sent out what the object of this meeting is. It is to form an institute to procure nurses from Home whose services shall be available for the community. For some years past four nurses have been available—Mrs. Ewenson, Mrs. Macdonald and two nurses provided by Government. Mrs. Ewenson and Mrs. Macdonald have been entirely independent and have, we believe, been able to live on their earnings; the other two have been maintained by the Government at a loss of something over \$3,000 a year for the two. Mrs. Ewenson has left the colony and Mrs. Macdonald is shortly going to do so. One of the Government nurses is to be taken into the Civil Hospital staff in April, and the contract period of the other Government nurses terminates early in June, when she is going home, and so far as we know, the Government has taken no steps to obtain others to replace these two. I believe that they have written Home asking whether they are to continue to maintain these nurses or no, but so far, have had no answer. Now matters are becoming urgent, and unless nurses are sent for immediately, by the beginning of June, there will not be a single nurse available to nurse in a private house in case of sickness, and we think that this constitutes a distinct danger to the community. Under these circum-

stances, Mrs. Dickson and myself took on ourselves to call a small meeting, which consisted of most of the doctors in general practice and of about a dozen representative ladies in this colony, to consider what had better be done. This meeting took place on the 13th February, and after talking the matter over, the following resolutions were prepared and unanimously carried:—

(1) That this meeting deems it essential that nurses available for the community should be procured from Home.

(2) That Dr. Stedman be empowered to write to the Colonial Secretary and ask the following questions:—(a) Do the Government intend to replace the two nurses whose services will shortly cease to be available to the community? (b) If not, will the Government let us know what has been the expenditure per annum in maintaining these nurses since they have been here? (c) What has been the amount earned during each year by the nurses, and for what periods during the year have they been employed? (d) Is there any money available from the Jubilee Hospital Fund for a nursing institute.

(3) That a temporary committee be formed to collect information and draw up a working scheme for the formation of a nursing institute.

(4) That the temporary committee consist of five. The following persons were elected and agreed to serve—Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. Slide, and Mrs. Gibbs, and Drs. Jordan and Stedman.

With regard to resolution 3, I think I ought to say it was the feeling of the original meeting that a nursing institution should be formed whether the Government get nurses out or no, because, even if the Government gets out two nurses, we should still have two less available than we have had for some years past, so that in any case there would, in all probability, be plenty of work for the nurses who were working under this proposed Hongkong Nursing Association. I will now read you the answers we have received from Government, through the Colonial Secretary (Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G.):

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 14th inst, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to inform you that the Government is anxious to ascertain the wishes of medical gentlemen and those interested in the question of private nursing in this colony.

2. With regard to the first resolution mentioned in your letter, His Excellency is of opinion that the nursing institution would be more satisfactorily carried out by a private committee and with the aid of a guarantee fund, as is done in other colonies with success. But, if the desire is that the Government shall obtain a supply of nurses, it is hoped that a scheme of training European or Eurasian natives of this Colony, or of other Eastern ports, for private nursing, may ultimately result in furnishing a regular supply of nurses and in effecting a considerable saving of public funds. I attach a copy of a report of the Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer showing what work has already been done in this respect.

3. In reply to question (b) of your letter, I am directed to inform you that the approximate annual expenditure in maintaining the two nurses in question has been \$4,540.28.

4. The annual receipts in fees earned by the two private nurses has been \$1,423.18.

5. With regard to question (d) I am informed by the Jubilee Committee that the sum available from Jubilee Hospital fund may perhaps amount to \$2,000.

The report by Dr. Bell, mentioned above, is as follows:—A Portuguese, a Chinese, and an Eurasian joined in 1896 and 1897, but none of them proved satisfactory and they left after a very short stay. Nurse U I Kai (Eurasian) entered in September, 1898, and is still here doing duty in the Maternity Hospital chiefly, where she is most useful. Her time is up in September of this year. She will not be much use in general nursing, but is quite capable so far as confinement cases go. Nurses McCarthy, Hogg, and Mannors (European) joined in April, 1899. The first named left on account of ill health, and the two latter are still here working very well. At the end of their three years they both propose proceeding home to obtain full English certificates. Nurses North and MacGowan (European) joined in 1900, but they also left after a short stay, as they did not prove suitable for nursery work. A stat-

ment of approximate expenditure and revenue in connection with the private nursing staff was also forwarded by Dr. Bell.

Continuing, Dr. STEDMAN said:—You will see with me that there is no definite answer to our first question, so that we do not know if they are going to get out more nurses or no, and I think I am correct in saying that they do not know themselves till they receive advice from England about the matter. I can tell you, however, that the Government would much rather give up providing these nurses, partly on account of the large deficit there has been in running them, and partly because they think that a nursing institute would be much better and more economically managed by the community, but I must add that His Excellency personally asked me to say that he would like to meet the wishes of the community in this matter, and that, if the community felt strongly that the Government should provide nurses to replace those who are shortly leaving, they would endeavour to do so. In fact, I received yesterday the following letter from the Colonial Secretary:—

SIR,—With reference to previous correspondence, I have the honour by direction of the Governor to inform you that His Excellency desires it to be clearly understood, in considering the question of nursing, that, whilst he is anxious that those who may require the services of private trained nurses shall decide whether they prefer to obtain and place them under the control of a committee, as suggested by the Colonial Nursing Association, he is prepared, should they decline to obtain and place them under such control, to recommend to the Secretary of State a proposal to engage two nurses to replace the nursing Sisters whose engagement is about to expire.

Ladies and gentlemen, continued Dr. STEDMAN, we, the temporary committee, think that it would be much better to have our own nursing association and manage it ourselves, for the following reasons:—(1) We shall take good care that there will not be a hiatus, as there threatens to be in June when the colony will be left nurseless. (2) We can get nurses of a class that we consider will be more suitable for nursing among the community. (3) We shall have the control of our nurses and shall not risk losing them by their being absorbed by the Civil Hospital. This, by the way, is a very real danger. One of the two Government nurses is to cease to be available for the community in April and is to be taken into the Civil Hospital two months before her contract time is up as a private nurse, and I have been told by His Excellency himself that the Civil Hospital is always considered to have the first claim, and that, at any future time, if they were in want of a nurse, one or even both those nominally at the service of the community might be withdrawn. (4) We think that we can manage a nursing institution much more economically than the Government has done. The scheme formulated by the temporary committee is practically that adopted by the Colonial Nursing Association, viz: that a permanent committee be appointed to manage the nursing institution and that they should receive all the fees earned by the nurses, and pay them a fixed annual salary and provide for their board and lodging. In endeavouring to carry out this scheme, the greatest difficulty with which the Committee has had to contend has been to find a place of residence for the nurses. Enquiries had been made at several boarding houses, but in all cases the sum asked for lodging the nurses and boarding them off duty has been almost prohibitive. Drs. Hartigan, Stedman and Rennie have offered to allow them to have rooms at the new Peak Hospital, at what they estimate to be about the cost price of the same, and to make all arrangements for their board when they are not out on duty. (Applause.) This certainly appears to be the cheapest way in which it can be managed. Of course the nurses would not be called on in any way to do any sort of duty at the Peak Hospital. The advantages of this scheme are many. It should be a healthy place for the nurses to live at. There is a telephone, so that they could be easily summoned. They could have the Peak Hospital nurses to associate with when not out nursing, and also, the new Peak

Hospital being close to the tramway is very central both for the town and Peak. The disadvantages are chiefly that the lab of the nurses living at the Peak Hospital would seem to unduly associate them with the doctors to whom the Hospital belongs, whereas they will have no relation to that hospital except as a place of residence till other quarters can be found for them. Moreover the owners of the Peak Hospital are not prepared to promise to keep rooms for the nurses for more than a year, because they feel that they may want all their available beds for patients. However, the temporary committee think that this is the best that can be done for the present, and they hope that in the future some permanent residence may be found for the nurses. With regard to cost, taking into consideration a passage out and home each five years, and reckoning that the nurses would only be employed seven months out of the twelve, which is according to the report given us by the Government, we find that there would be a deficit of about \$600 a year on each nurse. This, of course, does not take into account any extra expense such as may be incurred by illness. On the other hand, we hope that the nurses may have more employment than has hitherto been the case, which, by increasing their earnings, would much diminish the deficit. In answer to the appeal to the community, promises of \$3,045 have been received, and I have no doubt that, if this nursing association becomes an established fact, many others will subscribe who are waiting to hear the result of this meeting. (Applause). In the circular sent round, the sum of \$2,000 was asked for, and more than that sum has already been promised, but we did not get our answers from Government till the circular was issued, and we find that the nurses have not had as much employment as we had reckoned and that, therefore, the deficit would probably be larger than our original estimate. However we think we have quite enough to justify us in getting two nurses from Home, and that the deficit in future must be met by annual subscription. Further, it is possible the Government may help us, at any rate we can ask them, and it seems to me that, as they have lost over \$300 a year on running two nurses for the community, if they no longer have to do so, they would be very distinctly better off, even if they made a grant to the nursing association of \$1,000 a year. Again, in the Jubilee year part of the money subscribed was, I believe, for the purpose of providing nurses, or a residence for nurses for the community, and if this nursing association becomes an established fact, I think that we may get some help from that Fund. You will have heard that, in answer to our last question, we were told that about \$2,000 might be available. We should of course approach the Jubilee Committee on this matter. Now, ladies and gentlemen, I want you to understand that is not a charity which you are asked to support, but it is something we are doing for our own benefit. It seems that this colony is too far from Home and not attractive enough for nurses to come out here on their own initiative to earn their livelihood, and, therefore, we must contrive to guarantee them a sufficient salary to get them to come out. Moreover this is a question that appeals to us all individually. It is not only monthly nurses we propose to get, although, perhaps, it is for them that the need is most urgent, but the nurses are also to have had a thorough general training besides, and we none of us can tell how soon we may require the services of a trained nurse. The only alternative is apparently to leave one's home and be removed to a hospital. Of course, being tended when sick by a trained nurse is to some extent a luxury, but a luxury which has become in these days for many of us almost a necessity, and I think you will all give your support to this scheme which will enable us to avail ourselves of this luxury or necessity should we have need of it. (Applause).

Sir THOMAS JACKSON moved "That this meeting resolves that a private nursing institute be formed in Hongkong."

Hon. C. P. CHATER seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Hon. J. J. KEWICK then moved "That a permanent committee be formed consisting of seven persons, two being doctors in general practice, and five being ladies resident in this colony, and that this committee shall formu-

late rules for the nursing institution and arrange all the necessary preliminaries."

Mr. CRUICKSHANK seconded, and the meeting unanimously endorsed the proposal.

Regarding this motion, Dr. STEDMAN said that three ladies had been associated with Dr. Jordan and himself on the temporary committee—Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. Slade, and Mrs. Gibbs. These ladies, he was informed, were willing to serve on the permanent committee, should it be the desire of the meeting. Mrs. Siebs, representing the German community, and Mrs. Ritchie, who took a great interest in nursing, were also mentioned as being willing to serve on the committee.

On the motion of Bishop HOARE, seconded by Mr. POLLOCK, Drs. Jordan and Stedman and the five ladies mentioned were appointed as the Permanent Committee.

Mr. PLAYFAIR moved "That the Committee be empowered to obtain two nurses from Home with as little delay as possible."

Mr. POLLOCK seconded, and the motion was adopted.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Stedman, proposed by Mr. POLLOCK, brought a very successful meeting to a close.

The subscription list opened in connection with the scheme already amounts to over \$3,000.

PIRATICAL COMEDY ON THE HIGH SEAS.

The profession of pirate is not usually one that furnishes cause for amusement, but the incident which the other day transpired between two Chinese-owned launches, the *Nam Hing* and the *Kong Soo*, trading between Hongkong and the West River, is decidedly ludicrous. The launches left the Harbour at 5.30 in the afternoon of Wednesday, the 6th inst., on the usual run, their destination being Kunchuk, up the West River. The course usually taken is an easterly one, carrying the launches close to the island of Ling Ting, at the entrance to Deep Bay, but the *Kong Soo* on this occasion, being rather heavily laden, decided to steer a western course for the purpose of keeping in deep water. The *Nam Hing* was coming on some distance behind, and the master, seeing the *Kong Soo* suddenly deviate from her course—a thing she apparently had never done before—jumped to the conclusion that the dreaded Canton River pirates had seized her, and were now running away with the launch. He did not pause to consider that not a junk or a vessel of any description by which pirates might suddenly have borne down on the *Kong Soo* was in sight, but straightway sounded his whistle and got all the members of the crew on deck. These armed themselves with rifles—both launches have licences to carry arms—and opened fire, not in the direction of the *Kong Soo*, but in the air, probably to frighten the pirates. Hearing the unexpected sound of rapid firing, the master of the *Kong Soo* in turn jumped to the conclusion that the other launch had been visited by pirates, who were now in pursuit of himself, and he adopted exactly the same course that had commended itself to the master of the *Nam Hing*—he roused his crew, and, arming them with rifles, opened a return fire, at the same time again altering his course to elude his presumed would-be captors. This unexpected phase of the incident went thoroughly to convince the master of the *Nam Hing* that his supposition regarding the fate which had befallen the *Kong Soo* was the correct one, and when that launch altered its course for the second time, he naturally thought that the capture of his own launch was intended, and immediately sheered off, maintaining a steady fire. This was at eight o'clock in the evening, and the farce was kept up without cessation till two o'clock the following morning, the launches doubling about and dodging one another right round Ling Ting Island and in and out of Deep Bay. Simultaneously both masters seemed to have resolved to make for Hongkong, as being probably the only place of safety, and set a course accordingly, each maintaining the same steady fire, which never for a moment had they allowed to drop. On the way back, the *Nam Hing* in hot pursuit of the *Kong Soo*, they were hailed by two police launches from Brothers Island, whom the un-

usual sound of rifle-fire had warned that something out of the common was in progress. Neither of the launches answered the hail, their attention being wholly taken up with each other, to the complete exclusion of everything else. The police launches sounded their whistles time and again, but still met with no response, the *Kong Soo* and the *Nam Hing* pursuing a steady course for Hongkong. The police launches set off in pursuit, but although they had gained slightly when Capsimun Pass was reached, the fleeing launches opened out and left them far behind. Hongkong Harbour was reached at about four o'clock, the firing still going steadily on. A police pinnaque was on duty at the quarantine anchorage, where the launches came to a stop, and the officer in charge at once boarded the *Kong Soo* to ascertain the cause of the firing. He was informed with much excited gesticulation that pirates were on board the *Nam Hing*, which was then lying a little distance off. Acting on this information, the officer lost not a moment in boarding the *Nam Hing*, where he was breathlessly informed that the *Kong Soo* had been pirated, and that the pirates were still on board. Unable to make anything of the whole mysterious business, the officer took the master of the *Nam Hing* on board the pinnaque and then went for the master of the *Kong Soo*. Brought thus face to face, the whole ridiculous business was exposed, and the two masters realised what fools they had made of themselves and of each other. The decks of both launches were strewn with spent cartridges, and the coxswain of one had completely wrapped himself up in blankets, as a protection against stray bullets. Luckily, however, no one was injured—not even scratched, and after the police had searched them to make sure everything was correct, both launches left shortly after four o'clock for Kunchuk, which let us hope they reached without further incident.

TRIAL TRIP OF THE "SAINAM."

Of the many crafts which are to be seen plying about the river at Canton none are more interesting than the stern-wheelers, a class of boat admirably suited for river traffic. The native boats are of course worked by coolies, but ere long there is every reason to believe that a fine fleet of stern-wheelers worked by steam will have come into existence. A syndicate in which Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co., and the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company are interested are already the possessors of two boats—the *Nanning* and the *Sainam*—built for the Canton-Wuchow run, both of which have been constructed by Messrs. Fenwick and Company, Limited. The *Sainam* ran her official trial trip on Tuesday afternoon, the 12th inst., the trip being in every way a success. There was a large company on board, including His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.), Messrs. R. F. Johnston, Cruickshank (Government Surveyor, New South Wales), W. Poole, Sinclair, W. J. Gresson, W. Ramsay, D. Macdonald, (Capt.) G. C. Anderson, (Capt.) F. G. Goldard, Hewitt, E. C. Emmett, T. Yule, A. Rodger (chairman, Messrs. Fenwick and Company), W. Parlane (director, Messrs. Fenwick and Company), W. G. Winterburn (manager, Messrs. Fenwick and Company), D. Harvey (of Messrs. Fenwick and Company), J. I. Andrew, (Capt.) Branch. Captain Lossius takes command of the *Sainam*, with Mr. W. G. Hooke, R.N.R., as chief engineer.

The *Sainam* is sister-ship to the *Nanning* (built by the same firm), which has been plying on the West River, between Canton and Wuchow, for some months past. These steamers are interesting as being pioneers of their class in these waters, the *Nanning* having become very popular with native travellers during the period she has been running. The *Nanning* is now back in Hongkong for the purpose of having the passenger accommodation increased, and some slight alterations made, which experience has shown to be necessary. The vessels are 168 feet long, 31 feet broad and 8 feet deep, with a net registered tonnage of 350 tons. Nicely fitted accommodation is provided for ten first-class passengers, each room being provided with electric as well as oil lamps, the usual

mirrors, net-racks, lavatory basins, rugs, etc., and upholstered with green haircushions. There are four large cabins aft for reserved class Chinese, a women's room with eight berths, and a large compartment with six berths for second-class Chinese. Separate lavatory accommodation is provided for all classes. The saloon is a neat room furnished with polished teak and nicely upholstered. It is well lit up with electricity, as is also every other part of the ship. Four large life-boats show that every provision has been made for the safety of passengers. It may also be noted that the telegraphic arrangements between the pilot house and engine room are very complete, there being fitted an extra dial about the middle of the vessel's length so that orders may be transmitted from the pilot house when necessary. Each standard is also provided with a pointer showing the direction in which the engines are moving. The steering gear and compass are fitted in the pilot-house, the former operating two balanced rudders. On the main deck there is sleeping accommodation for 80 passengers, but altogether several hundred deck passengers can be carried on short runs. Here, again, a separate compartment is reserved for women, while the crew are berthed at the forward end. The boiler room is amidships. The boiler is of the multi-tubular type, 13 feet diameter, and working at a pressure of 20 pounds on the square inch. For driving up against a strong current, or if using inferior fuel, an engine is provided which rotates a fan impelling air into the furnaces. A water indicator shows the pressure of air in the tanks. There is also fitted a large duplex pump for circulating water to the sanitary system and for general purposes. The galleys are situated on each side of the boiler house, one being fitted with cooking range and utensils in European style, and the other with rice boiler and stoves for natives. The engines indicate about 400 horse power. They are on the compound surface-condensing principle, the diameter of cylinders being 18 inches and 38 inches, with a stroke of six feet. The water for circulating is driven by a separate rotary pump, which easily maintains a vacuum of 26 inches. The dynamo and its engine, with an elaborate array of switch boards, are placed in the engine room. The paddle wheel is 17 feet in diameter between centres of floats, and revolves at full speed at the rate of 20 turns per minute, giving a theoretical velocity of 10½ knots per hour.

On the return of the boat to Wanchai the company assembled in the saloon.

Mr. PARLANE proposed "Success to the *Sainam*." He trusted the boat would be a successful and profitable craft to her enterprising owners, enterprising because as they knew these two ships were pioneers of commerce on the inland water-ways of the Kwangtung province. He also hoped that they were merely the first of a fleet which Messrs. Fenwick and Company might have the honour of building for the same owners. (Hear, hear.) They had tried to make a good job of them and they hoped they would be a success. They would always take a deep interest in their future career. He might say that they were exceedingly pleased to see His Excellency the Governor there that day. (Hear, hear.) They knew the interest he took in the commercial and engineering prosperity of the colony, and they trusted to be honoured with his presence on many similar occasions in the future. (Applause.)

His EXCELLENCY said that this had been a most interesting occasion for him. He had taken the deepest interest in that ship and her sister ship, the *Nanning*. He had seen them both constructed as day by day he had ridden along the Praya in early morning. He thought he knew that ship from her skin to her upper works, and heartily congratulated Messrs. Fenwick and Company on the work they had turned out. He had been all over the ship, and he thought she was admirably suited for the purpose for which she had been constructed. He hoped the day was not far distant when ships of that kind would be able to call at every port on the West River for passenger traffic without restriction. (Hear, hear.) He thought that that was a great desideratum, but it was absolutely necessary for the successful carrying out of the business of this port that the inland navigation regulations as originally intended

should be carried out. (Hear, hear.) Hongkong, as he had observed in his last annual report, bade fair to become a great manufacturing centre. Hongkong at the present moment was a great ship-building centre. From Bangkok to Manila and up to Taku the launches built in Hongkong were at the present moment working, and nowhere was there better work turned out. He hoped that, as Mr. Parlane had said, these two ships were only the precursors of a large number of vessels of the same class, and that the trade of the West River would rapidly develop. He had no doubt that when the great docks which were contemplated were completed Hongkong would be the great ship-building centre of the East. He thought Messrs. Fenwick and Company were to be congratulated on the success with which they had carried out the contract in regard to the building of these two ships. He echoed Mr. Parlane's hope that the firm would have many other ships of a similar kind to construct, and that their construction would be as successful as that of their predecessors. He asked the company to join him in drinking success to Messrs. Fenwick and Company and in congratulating them on the success of their work.

This was done, and Mr. Parlane having returned thanks on behalf of the company, the proceedings terminated.

OUTRAGE ON THE PRAYA.

EUROPEAN PARTLY BLINDED BY VITRIOL.

An outrage of an exceptionally cowardly nature was perpetrated on the Praya on Thursday morning about seven o'clock, the victim being Mr. G. Reek, leading man of store-houses at H.M. Naval Yard. Mr. Reek left his home in Morrison Hill Road about half-past six on Thursday morning to start the day's duties at the Naval Yard. His road lay along the sea front, and is the one he has always been in the habit of taking. When opposite the French Convent on the Praya, a quantity of vitriol was thrown with startling suddenness in Mr. Reek's face. Happily, at the moment the vitriol struck him, Mr. Reek had his right hand to his head, and to this fact alone is to be attributed the fact that Mr. Reek is not now totally blind. As it was, his forehead, and the upper part of the right side of his face, as well as right arm, have been severely burnt. Mr. Reek, who saw no one about, at once hurried to the Naval Hospital, where it was found that the sight of one eye, the right, was almost totally destroyed. The left eye, and in fact the whole of the left side of the face, is practically untouched, this being due to the circumstance that the right side of Mr. Reek's head and body was presented to the parapet, the direction from which the vitriol was thrown. From the Naval Hospital Mr. Reek was taken home, where he is now confined.

No motive is known for the dastardly crime, and so far the police have not been successful in effecting any arrests, but it is sincerely to be hoped that such will not long be the case. Mr. Reek says he has an impression of seeing a hand suddenly appear over the parapet, causing him instinctively to throw up his arm to guard his head. This statement indicates therefore that the vitriol came from one of the many native boats moored alongside the Praya wall, and that there the criminal will be found. The police authorities are sparing no effort to trace the crime to its source.

The death is reported on the 28th inst., under painful circumstances, of M. F. Chalant, an old resident of Bangkok, and part proprietor of the *Siam Free Press*. After being seen apparently in the best of health during the morning, he was missed, and was found in his house in Windmill Road suspended by a rope from a beam. Everything that was possible was done for the unfortunate man, but efforts were without avail. M. Chalant went out to Siam as assistant in the firm of Bonaville, and afterwards went into partnership with Mr. Shaw under the style of Shaw and Chalant. M. Chalant bought the *Siam Free Press* when it was sold by Mr. Lillie.

PRESENTATION OF MEDALS TO THE POLICE.

An interesting ceremony was gone through at the Magistracy on the 8th inst., when detachments of European, Indian, and Chinese police paraded in the compound to witness the presentation of medals, by Captain Superintendent May, C.M.G. (in the absence of H.E. the Governor), to a number of members of the force. Deputy Superintendent Badeley put the men through various evolutions in drill, and after they had been inspected, Captain Superintendent May, in accordance with a general order, dated 6th March, by His Excellency the Governor, presented medals to the following:—

EUROPEAN CONTINGENT.—Inspector MacDonald, for diligence in the discharge of duty, medal of the third class; Inspector Baker, for long and faithful service, medal of the fourth class; Inspector Ford, for long and faithful service, medal of the fourth class; Inspector Cuthbert, for diligence in the discharge of duty, medal of the fourth class.

INDIAN CONTINGENT.—Sergeant-Major Lall Singh, for diligence in the discharge of duty, medal of the fourth class; Sergeant (617) Afzal Khan, for long and faithful service, medal of the fourth class.

CHINESE CONTINGENT.—Detective Sergeant U Po (who lost a limb at the falling of a house during the November typhoon), for diligence in the discharge of duty, medal of the first class; Constable (139) Li Choi, for long and faithful service, medal of the fourth class; Constable (312) Lo Chun Man, for diligence in the discharge of duty, medal of the fourth class; Constable (155) Ng Hon, for diligence in the discharge of duty, medal of the fourth class.

SPECIAL DECORATION.—Indian P.C. (748) Sultan Bux, for saving life, received from the Belilios Trust a certificate, a bronze star, and the sum of \$25. The circumstances connected with this plucky deed, as set forth in the inscription on the certificate, are that on 20th January, while P.C. 748 was on duty at West Point, he saw a Chinaman fall from the Praya into the harbour. The man fell into deep water, and, being unable to swim, would undoubtedly have been drowned had not P.C. 748 unhesitatingly plunged into the water, and, swimming to his assistance, got him into a boat and thence ashore.

The presentation of this award concluded the ceremony, and the parade shortly afterwards dismissed.

HONGKONG'S FINANCES.

Sir Henry A. Blake's report on Hongkong for 1899 has the following section on "Finance":—

"During the year 1899 the Actual Revenue, exceeded the Estimated Revenue by \$290,622.76 exclusive of the amounts derived from land sales and the water account. If these sums are included, the excess of actual over estimated revenue was \$724,006.25. The expenditure exceeded the estimate by \$467,369.80. This is exclusive of the amount spent on Public Works Extraordinary, which was considerably less than has been estimated. The total excess of actual over estimated expenditure was, therefore, only \$258,520.56. The excess was due to expenditure in connection with the New Territory, which amounted to \$233,000. Of this, \$47,000 was expended on account of the Police Establishment, while \$112,000 was spent on roads and Police Stations.

"The amount received from land sales was very large, being more than double the estimated receipts from this source. The excess of actual over estimated revenue under this head was \$417,824.72.

"Only \$7,273.03 was derived in revenue from the New Territory, the collection of Crown rent which will be the principal source of revenue not having been begun.

"The following tables show the heads of revenue and expenditure, from which it will be seen that the revenue for 1899 has exceeded the expenditure by \$447,350.89. The figures are compared with those of the four previous years, and the results show that practically without the imposition of any additional taxation the

financial resources of the colony have continued to show a gratifying elasticity.

The tables which follow show the General Revenue and Expenditure, the Assets and Liabilities, and the Public Debt of the Colony. The Revenue in 1899 showed a nett increase on the previous year's figures of \$691,984.01. To this land sales contributed no less than \$484,505.85, while the only decrease specified was under the head of Post Office, where the falling off was \$19,270.63. The total Revenue for 1899 was \$3,610,143.25, and the total Expenditure \$3,162,792.36, leaving a surplus of \$447,350.89, roughly six times the surplus of 1898 and ten times that of 1897. The Assets of the Colony amounted in 1899 to \$454,543.13, and the Liabilities to \$766,316.45; but in the Assets is not included \$831,109.92 value of silver at the Mint.

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.

The annual report of the Hongkong Seamen's Church and Mission, which has just been published, is a gratifying record of labour done and results attained. In consequence of the large and increasing number of war-vessels in port in the early part of the year, there was a great need for special effort, and the machinery at hand for dealing with the seamen while ashore gathered additional force by the appointment as Assistant Chaplain of the Rev. T. Wright, whose stipend had been assured out of the funds of the parent society. Later in the year the arrival of a number of British vessels from the North for their annual overhaul, and several American battleships and cruisers from the South, made it apparent that increased attendances upon the vessels were absolutely necessary if the seamen were to be reached when they had their liberty ashore. The provision of an additional labourer in that field made it possible for the work to be done more thoroughly, and over twenty-five thousand seamen availed themselves of the recreative advantages offered at the Star Coffee House and the Kowloon Institute during the year under review. The need for pecuniary aid and support was more and more apparent. Over ten thousand seamen had attended the meetings held by the Chaplains both ashore and afloat, who had received the most encouraging testimony as to the good fruit born of their labours. During the past three years the increase in the work was gradual, and in 1899 twice as many men were reached as in 1898, and in 1900 six times as many as in 1898. For the first two months of the present year, the various agencies of the mission had been visited by as many as had attended them in 1899. The local committee in their report, after thanking the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company for their kindness in overhauling and repairing the mission launch *Dayspring*, observe that the following firms had kindly given allowances of coal for the launch and the Kowloon Institute during the winter months:—Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Canadian Pacific Railway Company, Shewan, Tomes & Co., Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Gibb, Livingston & Co., and Mr. E. Osborne. The local Press had also to be thanked for sending copies of their papers to the "Star," and the Kowloon Institute, and Miss Reid of Edinburgh had this year sent a further supply of books for the circulating library, and to her and the many kind friends who had sent magazines and papers for distribution among the ships, also clothing for the use of destitute seamen, warm thanks were due.

The committee this year had to meet a serious difficulty in connection with the Star Coffee House. In the spring of the year, the landlord gave notice of a very considerable increase of rent, and also refused to renew the lease, except on a monthly tenancy. After long and careful consideration, it was deemed advisable to seek other and less costly premises. Through the kindness of Mr. Keswick, these were found in D'Aguilar Street, just off Queen's Road. It was necessary to spend a considerable sum in altering and cleaning these premises, and partly owing to this, and to the fact that for some time the new premises being off the main line of traffic, did not attract the men as the old premises had done, the committee regretted to say that, unless more subscriptions should come in for the current year's expenses, there would be

a slight deficit. They noticed with pleasure that the Kowloon Institute was this year almost entirely self-supporting, and was doing good work. Grateful thanks were due to the many kind friends, who, by providing bright attractive entertainments, had helped to make the Institute a centre of useful work, also to all those who had so ungrudgingly given their time and energy to the work of the Church and Mission.

In connection with such an encouraging report of good work done among our seamen both naval and mercantile, it may be added that a number of gentlemen in the colony are interesting themselves with a view to the erection of a building in one of principal thoroughfares to replace the Star, the accommodation of which is quite inadequate to meet the demands made upon it. Although within the last few months an additional Home for sailors and soldiers has been opened in Arsenal Street, there is still a want for accommodation for seamen at night, and, since the American men-of-war have been in port many seamen have had to walk the streets all night, there being no beds for them at either of the institutions established in the colony for their express use and benefit. Such an undesirable state of things should be remedied, and, we understand, the Government is to be asked either to present a site to the mission or give the committee an opportunity of purchasing one at a reduced figure. That such a movement justifies an appeal to the public admits of no doubt, and when it is considered that the Missions to Seamen is the only organisation of its kind which provides for the immediate wants of the distressed seamen of all nationalities, and wholly irrespective of creed, it has a foremost claim upon the charitable—a claim, we are assured, will not be altogether disregarded. The Hon. Treasurer is Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., of Bank Buildings, and subscriptions, we are told, may be sent to him or the Rev. J. H. France, St. Peter's Church.

THE DALLAS COMPANY AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

On Saturday night, the 9th inst., Mr. Henry Dallas's Musical Comedy Company beat all their previous records at Hongkong and indeed the takings must have reached nearly, if not quite the highest figure attained at our local Theatre. Every available seat in the dress circle from which a view of the stage can be got was taken, and the lower part of the house was as full as it could possibly be. The audience came prepared to give a warm welcome to the well-known Company in a new piece, in which a most favourable verdict had been gained by them in other parts of the East. Nor was the public disappointed. *Florodora* was presented with all the care and ability which marks Mr. Dallas's productions, and was a credit to all concerned. The play itself, as we said in discussing it last week, is based upon a slight plot, and it depends very much on the performers for its success. Fortunately it is introduced to Hongkong by a most able cast, and with the aid of Mr. Leslie Stuart's tuneful music goes without a hitch. On Saturday night it took but a few minutes for the performers to warm to their work, and from the time of Miss Hettie Peel's and Mr. George Wilson's duet, "Galloping Gaily," to the fall of the curtain upon the final chorus, encores followed one upon another with the utmost rapidity.

The leading lady's part of Dolores was borne by Miss Evelyn de Worms, who is new to the Company since it was last seen in Hongkong. She is a great acquisition and sustained the rôle, in which Miss Evie Green made such a hit at the Lyric Theatre, with grace and ability. She has an excellent voice, and her acting was more than adequate. We understand that she appeared in a leading part both in *The Little Genius* and *La Poupée* in London. Miss Hettie Peel, already a Hongkong favourite, again showed how versatile are her powers, and in singing, dancing, and acting alike was conspicuous throughout. Her energy is never flagging and she most deservedly received a large number of encores. The part of Lady Holyrood was played by Miss May Norton, like Miss de Worms a newcomer, who has added to the strength of the Company. Her singing of "In a Twinkling" was a marked

success. Miss Violet Capel, in her *Statuesque Dance*, made no small contribution to the attractions of the play. Among the actors Mr. Henry Dallas once more put the whole audience in his debt by a masterly representation of his part. Indeed, without reflecting at all on the other performers, we may say that he was the life of the piece. Even those who have seen the incomparable Willie Edouin in part of Anthony Tweedlepunch could watch Mr. Dallas with pleasure. The "Mysterious Minstrel's" performance by him and Miss de Worms was one of the best things of the evening. One criticism we must offer, and that is that the abruptness of the *dénouement* is too startling. It is true that this was so at the Lyric also, but it is nevertheless a blot. It gives the idea of an anxiety for the final chorus. We think that Tweedlepunch might bear up a little longer against the spirit of Ethelwulf—especially as he recovers so rapidly from his fright immediately after. Captain Donegal was capital presented by Mr. G. L. Wilson, another gain to the Company. Mr. Harold Godwin played the part of Cyrus Gilfain and Mr. Hugh Metcalf that of Frank Abercord, both excellently. Our old friend Mr. Ferrell had little to do as Leandro. The minor parts were all in reliable hands, and the whole performance evidently gave general satisfaction.

The following is the cast:—

Anthony Tweedlepunch	Mr. Henry Dallas
Cyrus Gilfain	Mr. Harold Godwin
Frank Abercord	Mr. Hugh Metcalf
Leandro	Mr. J. B. Ferrell
Captain Arthur Donegal	
Legal	Mr. Geo. L. Wilson
Tennysen Sims	Mr. Arthur Stanley
Max Alphebaum	Mr. D. Munro
Reginald Langdale	Mr. F. C. Foster
Angela Gilfain	Miss Hettie Peel
Vallada	Miss Violet Capel
Inez	Miss Zaidie Monckton
Joso	Miss Daisy Albert
Juanita	Miss Topsy Albert
Violante	Miss Montague
Calista	Miss Mabel Glynn
Mail	Miss Nance Leslie
Lady Holyrood	Miss May Norton
Daisy Chain	Miss Beryl Mackay
Lucy Ling	Miss B. rtha Hunter
Cynthia Belmont	Miss Minnie Evelyn
Dolores	Miss Evelyn de Worms
Florodorean Farmers, Flower Girls, Welsh Peasants, &c.	

A full house assembled in the Theatre Royal on Thursday night to witness the staging of the great London success, *an Toy*, by the Dallas Musical Comedy Company. Expectation, which ran high, was not disappointed, the opera going off with that dash and smoothness so essential in plays of the kind. All of the performers had a good grasp of their parts, which they carried through to a successful and enthusiastic finale. We reserve a fuller report.

ALICE MEMORIAL AND NETHERSOLE HOSPITALS.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The annual meeting of the Finance Committee of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals was held at the former hospital on Thursday afternoon, 14th inst., at five o'clock, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., in the chair. The other gentlemen present were the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai (founder of the Alice Memorial Hospital), Mr. A. Mackenzie (treasurer), Dr. Gibson (superintendent and secretary), Dr. Thomson, and the Rev. A. Wells.

The CHAIRMAN read letters of apology from Mr. D. Wood and Mr. C. Palmer.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting having been read and approved, the election of office-bearers was proceeded with.

The Hon. Dr. Ho KAI proposed the re-election of the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart as chairman. He said Mr. Lockhart had already done great service for the hospital, and would doubtless do as much again. It was to be hoped that as long as Mr. Lockhart was with them he would render help by filling the position of Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The Rev. A. WELLS seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN briefly thanked Dr. Ho Kai for the flattering way in which he had referred

to his service in the chair, and assured the meeting of his efforts to promote the interests of the institution.

The Superintendent's report of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals for the year 1900 was laid on the table.

Mr. MACKENZIE then read his report for the year ended 31st January. The report stated that owing to the Land Investment Company calling on shareholders to pay up shares in full, the sum of \$4,875 had been diverted from the general account. The balance had thus been brought to the wrong side, but the money thus invested would in future bring regular returns each year, and in the meantime the bank was agreeable to advance an overdraft on their account at a small rate of interest. An effort had been made, as some knew, to get this money, and a friend of the hospital had practically guaranteed half. The expenses for the year were heavier than those of the year before, due mainly to increases in various items—salaries, which had increased by \$204, medical and surgical appliances, the increase against which amounted to over \$1,000, and sundries, the last item about \$170. A very gratifying feature of the income side was the steadiness with which European and other subscriptions were coming in. The sum of \$2,599.49 had been received this year from bequests, and the increase over last year from ordinary sources had actually been \$922.27. In concluding, Mr. Mackenzie said he regretted that pressure of business made it necessary for him to retire from the office of treasurer. He suggested Mr. David Wood, auditor, as his successor.

Dr. THOMSON moved the adoption of the treasurer's report, and commented on its favourable nature.

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI, in seconding, regretted Mr. Mackenzie having to retire, and spoke highly of the work he had done.

The motion for the adoption of the report was adopted.

The Rev. A. WELLS proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Mackenzie, and moved that his name be added to the list of the Finance Committee.

This was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. MACKENZIE, seconded by Dr. GIBSON, Mr. David Wood was elected to the office of treasurer.

On the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN, Drs. Thomson, Gibson, and Ho Kai, and Mr. Mackenzie were appointed to revise and strengthen the Finance Committee, their suggestions to be finally laid before a general committee.

The CHAIRMAN, in his address, commented on the satisfactory condition of the finances of the hospital, and drew comparisons between the figures of last year and those of the present year. He also paid a tribute to Mr. Mackenzie's suitability as a treasurer, and expressed satisfaction that he would still be associated with them on the Finance Committee. Dealing with the affairs of the hospital, the CHAIRMAN said he had always thought that the Chinese should come forward more readily than they do in support of the institution, and show that they were really grateful for the work which was being done for them. In concluding, he congratulated the Superintendent (Dr. Gibson) on having been able to give such a satisfactory report.

This was all the business.

The sequel to the *Crown* case, on account of which the Sultan of Johore was compelled to resign his membership of the Singapore Sporting Club, was witnessed on the 5th inst., when at a general meeting of the Club Mr. J. P. Joaquim brought forward a resolution to the effect that the members of the Club were of opinion that the Committee were too hasty in their action and that their resolution, in so far as it reflected on H. H.'s conduct, was not justified by the evidence and papers before them, and H. H. should at least have been afforded an opportunity of explaining. The resolution concluded: "The action of the Committee cannot well be set aside, but it is resolved that this Resolution be appended to the Resolution of the Committee of the 12th January, 1901, and that a copy be sent to every Club or Association to whom a copy of the Committee's Resolution in question has been or may be furnished." After a long discussion, the resolution was lost by a large majority.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 11th March.

CANTON GOVERNMENT IN STRAITS.

About the end of last year (Chinese), when ninety per cent. of the people in Canton were hard-pressed for money, the Government found itself in a worse plight. It had to pay the wages of a large number of soldiers and braves, a number of petty officials who enjoy sinecures, and the candidates awaiting appointments. Where was the money to come from? After payment of the indemnity in the cases of the recent anti-Christian riots, and the large remittance sent to Shensi to relieve the Imperial wants, the Treasurer found the treasury was short by about one million taels. He had therefore to borrow from the Salt Commissioner 200,000 taels. When he sent round to arrange a loan of another hundred thousand taels with the native banks, most strangely none were willing to lend, and most of the poor fellows who were expecting money for the New Year had to go without, and make the best shift they could.

A REFORMER AND HIS FOES.

There is a rumour here that the governor of Kwangsi, Wang Wai-shin, is in difficulty. The facts were these. The governor of Shensi, Shen Chon-hsuan, is the son of Shen-yu-yung, Viceroy of Yunnan and Kweichow. He is a reformer and a member of the society for the protection of the Imperial Government instituted by Kang Yu-wei. At the beginning of the northern crisis he got into difficulties, as connected with the reform movements, but a high official in the Imperial Court, by name Shen Kwai, got him out of it. His troubles were due to machinations of Wang Wai-shin, and Wang Chuan Shien, former secretary for foreign affairs and legal adviser of the late Viceroy Tan Chung Lin of Canton; so as long as Shen is in power he hates them intensely. They have memorialised against him two or three times before. But now as the Government has signified its intention of introducing reforms into the country and as he is in favour with the Emperor Kwang Hsu and the Empress Dowager, since their flight to Shensi, he has managed to get his enemies into trouble, and caused Wang Wai-shin, the Governor of Kwangsi, to be placed under the strict observation by the judge of Kwangsi, Yeang Ping Chou, and the governor of Hunan, Yu Lien.

AN ARMS SMUGGLING SCARE.

There is a rumour here that the mandarins are exercising their wits to discover who are attempting to pass contraband arms and ammunition into Canton and Singapore. Some accuse the associates of Sun Yet Sen, alias Sun Man. I don't believe it, seeing that the prohibition against the import of arms is so strict, and spies are always on the alert. It is always the case with officials; when a new Viceroy comes they start some theory to frighten him, to see how he takes it.

CANTON AMATEURS AT THE THEATRE.

The Canton amateurs gave their second performance of the tragic opera entitled *Bombastes Furioso*, in the Club Theatre, on Saturday evening, the 9th inst., to a large and appreciative audience; seats were also provided for the marines of the gunboats. Throughout the piece the performers sustained their parts very well, especially Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe as King of Utopia. His acting and singing were exceptionally good. General Bombastes, in the person of Mr. F. H. Bell, was most dignified, while Mrs. A. Nielsen as Distaffina, a fair and fickle maiden, was charming, her singing and acting being natural and sweet. The grand menuet and the last part of the piece called forth frequent encores. At the conclusion of the performance the performers and Mr. H. W. Hine, stage manager, were called before the curtain and greeted with loud cheers by the whole audience.

It is stated that the half of the "Marriott" Bequest, which was originally intended for a church in Peking, has been transferred to Tientsin, and it is now the entire plan for the church at Tientsin may be carried out, instead of only half the building, as was at first thought probable.

SAIGON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Saigon, 3rd March.

M. DOUMER AND HIS RAILWAYS.

Our Governor-General left by the last mail steamer *Laos* for France, and so far as can be judged by public opinion, as expressed in the local papers, there is but one unanimous desire—that he may never return. His railway projects have never been looked on with favour in Saigon; even admitting that a railway is built from Saigon to Hanoi, we fail to see the necessity for the enormous expense. The Mytho railway is an example on a smaller scale. Although there are running now express trains over this line of 73 kilometres in two hours—a good performance—yet this Mytho railway has never transported paddy or any goods and is, of course, working at a loss.

ABANDONED PLANS.

What good may come from the grand trunk line, Saigon-Hanoi, we fail to understand here. There is besides the project to make a branch line from Bienhoa to the plateau of Lambiang, in the hills between Cape St James and Nhatrang which is at an altitude of 1,600 metres; and it has been said that a sanatorium is to be built there, which is to receive sick officials, the sending of whom to Lambiang instead of to Europe would thus create an economy for the colony. But it has since been found out that the access to this elevated point is enormously difficult and can only be done from the sea at the bay of Phanrang, where everything has to be carried from Saigon. Altogether it is an impracticable affair.

The once so much talked of stone jetty at Cape St. James, which was to create a port there for steamers to call and to coal at, is also no longer "on the tapis," and the project has been recognised as impracticable since it has been seen that the bay "des cocotiers" is getting every day more sandy.

GENERAL PROSPERITY.

Notwithstanding all this, the country is getting on well. Harvests are every year bigger, and every year more land is being cultivated—so far only one-fifth of Cochin China is really under cultivation—and we see paddy prices maintained at a level hitherto unknown.

CHINA NEW YEAR.

The Chinese New Year festivities passed off with the usual incidents, the most remarkable of which was perhaps a robbery which was committed in the night of the 21st February in the bedroom of Mrs. Picanan, our Lieutenant-Governor's wife, when gold and jewelry to the amount of \$600 was stolen. The lady saw an Annamite run away, but he has not yet been caught.

Of course there has been again a big fire in Cholan near the market in a street called the Rue de Gialong, where 15 houses were burnt down. The damage sustained was two hundred and forty thousand dollars, partly covered by insurance. This is now the third time that a big fire has broken out at the very same place in the very same houses, which have been rebuilt three times and have now burnt down as often. I cannot understand how insurance agents continue to take risks in such a bad place.

RICE-MILLS INCREASING.

A new rice-mill has been started this year—the "Yee Cheong" mill. This brings the number of our mills to nine, of which seven are Chinese and two European, all of which are big ones. This seems also to be an indication of the prosperity of the country, if we consider that in Tonkin not a single steam rice-mill exists yet. Cochin China exports yearly almost 12 millions of piculs of rice or paddy of different sorts and everything is on the increase.

A thing worthy of praise here is the abundant water supply, and good water it is too; new wells have been dug and the health of our colony is excellent.

The N. Y. K. steamer *Hakata Maru*, which left England on 1st ult., had on board the last of the ten first-class torpedo-boats built for the Japanese Government by Messrs. Yarrow & Co., of Poplar. These ten vessels are 160 ft. long by 16 ft. beam, and have a speed of 27 knots, carrying a load of 25 tons.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 7th March.

GEN. MACARTHUR'S NEW SCHEME.

General MacArthur has hit upon a novel scheme, which promises to be an important aid to the difficult work of inducing the insurgents to give up their rifles. Up to the present time the military authorities have hung out a bait in the form of \$30 Mexican, which was offered to anyone who had become tired of fighting or who for other reasons was willing to give up his gun and begin life again as a good peace-loving subject or citizen. Of course this sum is considerably above the ordinary cost of the rifles, but it is nevertheless a most profitable business for the Government, because once the rifles are out of the hands of the natives, the pacification of the archipelago will be greatly simplified. Suppose there are 1,000 rifles yet remaining in insurgent hands. If they were all turned in to-morrow they would cost the Government \$30,000 and they would be worth to the Government no one knows how much, but certainly a great deal more than three million dollars.

ANOTHER PRIVILEGE FOR THE PEACEFUL.

General MacArthur has offered to everyone who surrenders a rifle not only the original \$30, but also the very desirable privilege of naming for liberty one of the five thousand military prisoners who are held in Manila and the various prisons of the islands, provided that the man chosen is not held on serious criminal charges. A man for a rifle is a fair swap and it should be a winning game with the natives.

THE TEXT OF THE ORDER.

The new order was drawn up on 1st March and is as follows:—

1st March.

From the date, upon the delivery to the United States of serviceable breech-loading rifles, or serviceable revolving or repeating pistols, prisoners of war, in numbers equal to the number of arms delivered, will be released from confinement, the prisoner or prisoners released to be designated by the person delivering the arms unless it shall appear necessary to hold any particular prisoners whose release is asked, but the person who may have turned in the gun may designate another prisoner in place of the one whose release is desired.

Any prisoner who may be liberated in the pursuance of this authority will, upon taking the oath of allegiance, be free to return to their homes and to engage in their ordinary peaceful vocations. So long as they observe their oaths of allegiance they will be unmolested, but a failure to do this upon the part of any released prisoner will subject him to the most severe penalties, not only for such failure but for past offences.

For serviceable breech-loading rifles and serviceable revolving or repeating pistols delivered as above payment will be made as heretofore authorised and the arms will be received and receipted for by any commanding officers of regiments, posts or detachments. Reports of all deliveries, with names of those presenting the arms, and names and residence of prisoners proposed for liberation, will be promptly forwarded to these headquarters.

THE PASSAGE OF THE SPOONER BILL—NOT REGARDED AS SATISFACTORY.

The full text of the Spooner Bill, as finally passed by Congress, was telegraphed here to-day to the Commission. It went through as a rider on the Army Appropriation Bill of 2nd March. The Spooner Bill has been before Congress for more than a year and while it is very short and concise in text its powers as originally drafted were very great. In the present form in which it has passed, these extensive powers are very much curtailed.

The difficulties of the present situation are not all relieved so far as the alienation of the public domain is concerned. So the miners and timber men are as badly off as ever. So far as the reading indicates there is no provision for the granting of corporate franchises. This latter was very much desired by the Commission and by all the business men of the islands. There is a provisional clause but it does not meet the requirements of the case.

Altogether it will not be an exaggeration to say that the final state in which the bill comes to Manila is a disappointment.

"SPOONER BILL."

The text as telegraphed is as follows:—

"All military, civil and judicial power necessary to govern the Philippine Islands acquired from Spain by the treaties concluded at Paris on the tenth day of December eighteen hundred and ninety eight and at Washington on the seventh day of November nineteen hundred shall, until otherwise provided by Congress, be vested in such person and persons and shall be exercised in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct for the establishment of civil government and for maintaining and protecting the inhabitants of said Islands in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion. Provided that all franchises granted under the authority hereof shall contain a reservation of the right to alter, amend or repeal the same. Until a permanent government shall have been established in said Archipelago full reports shall be made to Congress on or before the first day of each regular session of all legislative acts and proceedings of the temporary government instituted under the provisions hereof and full reports of the acts and doings of said government and as to the condition of the Archipelago and of its people shall be made to the President, including all information which may be useful to Congress, in providing for a more permanent government. Provided that no sale or lease or other disposition of the public lands or the timber thereon or the mining rights therein shall be made; and provided, further, that no franchise shall be granted which is not approved by the President of the United States, and is not in his judgment clearly necessary for the immediate government of the Islands and indispensable for the interest of the people thereof, and which can not, without great public mischief, be postponed until the establishment of permanent civil government, and all such franchises shall terminate one year after the establishment of such permanent civil government."

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the National Bank of China, Ltd., was held at noon on Saturday, 9th inst. Mr. Chau Kit Shan presided, and there were also present:—Messrs. Chow Tung Shang, J. T. Lauts, and C. Ewens (Directors), A. Rumjahn, H. Pinckney, E. S. Kelly, Chun Hi, Ng Tsit Mi, Hung Hoi, E. W. Terrey, Sin Un, and others.

Mr. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR (Chief Manager), read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, I have now the pleasure to submit to you the Report and Balance-sheet to 31st December, 1900 (which with your permission we will take as read). The profits and position of the Bank continue to improve. Charges account again shows a reduction, but has now reached a limit below which we can scarcely expect it to go if we are to combine efficiency with economy. The dividend this year is \$1.50 against \$1.36 last year, and we are sure the shareholders will approve of the policy of adding substantially to the reserve fund each year. While we have no reason to complain of the results of the year as a whole, it is as well to remind you that we went through a very trying and unprofitable summer, owing to the attacks on the Legations at Peking and the consequent disorganisation of trade and credit which ensued. Trade still remains dull owing to the continued uncertainty of affairs in the North, but when matters are amicably settled we hope to see a considerable revival in business of every description. You will notice from the totals which we gave you at the foot of the profit and loss account that our capital and reserve funds now reach a total of \$2,420,000. I have further to intimate that your Directors have invited Mr. Creasy Ewens to a seat on the Board and you will be asked to confirm the appointment. Before moving that the report and accounts be adopted I shall be happy to answer any questions that shareholders may desire to ask.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN thereupon moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Ng Tsit Mi seconded.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. E. S. KELLY proposed, and Mr. TERREY seconded, that Mr. Chow Tung Shang be re-elected a Director on the Head-offices Board, and the Hon. C. H. Stuart-Wortley, K.C., M.P., on the London Committee, and that the appointment of Mr. C. Ewens as a Director be confirmed.

Agreed unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. RUMJAHN and seconded by Mr. CHUN HI that Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. Hutton Potts be re-elected Auditors in Hongkong, and Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths and Co. in London—at the same remuneration as before.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the shareholders for their attendance, and intimated that dividend warrants would be ready on Monday.

HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LIMITED.

The seventeenth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in this company was held on Saturday, 9th inst., at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. The business before the meeting was the receiving of the statement of accounts and the report of the general managers for the year ending 31st December, 1900, the declaring of a dividend, and the election of a consulting committee and auditors. Mr. R. Shewan (Chairman) presided, and the other gentlemen present were Messrs D. Gillies, A. J. Raymond, J. H. Lewis (Consulting Committee), C. S. Sharp, A. Denison, R. H. Potts, A. Babington, D. E. Brown, and Captain G. C. Anderson.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, as copies of the report have been in your hands for some days, I will with your permission dispense with reading it now. We are glad to be able to come before you with such a good report, for the past year was another very difficult one; hemp prices ruled higher than ever, and, though always expected to return to a normal figure, never did so, making it extremely hard for us to decide what policy we should pursue. When we met here last year, I warned you not to expect another such year of plenty, but the result is, after all, a very good one, enabling us to pay our customary dividend of 20 per cent. and put a substantial amount to reserve fund. I also told you then that it had become necessary for us to carry larger stocks of both raw and wrought material in future, and if you compare the present report with last year's, you will see that this is being done. The most pleasing feature of the year's business is that our turnover still continues to show an increase, in spite of the fact that, owing to high cost of hemp, we have to charge what may perhaps seem to our customers a very extravagant price for rope. In order to sell as cheaply as possible, we reduced the margin between the two, and our profits this year are smaller chiefly for this reason. I am glad to say that our prospects for the current year seem very good, and that there is every indication before us that our rope will continue to grow in favour and increase its hold upon the markets it has secured. We are making a strong bid for an important contract now, and, if quality and cheapness are the only desiderata, we should surely secure it. The extension of our factory has been delayed by the usual procrastination of the Chinese contractor, but will be finished, I hope, in about four months. You will then become possessed of a factory nearly three times the capacity of the original one, without having been called upon to subscribe any extra capital towards it. I may tell you that a factory such as we have to-day could not now be started on a capital of less than at least a million dollars; this I think you will admit is a very satisfactory position for the company to hold. There is nothing in the accounts that I can see that requires any explanation, all the items being ordinary ones, but should any shareholder require further information about them, or on any other points, I shall be pleased to answer the question.

Mr. DENISON—In the new part of the factory on the extension, I see there is something mentioned in the report about money spent on the extension. Is that the extension of the factory?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. DENISON—Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN—There being no further questions, I propose that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Captain ANDERSON seconded, and the proposal was adopted.

On the motion of Mr. DENISON, seconded by Mr. Potts, Messrs. Gillies, Lewis, and Raymond were re-elected as consulting committee.

Messrs. T. Arnold and Fullarton Henderson, on the motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. GILLIES, were re-elected auditors for the ensuing year.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO., LIMITED.

The fourteenth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the company's office, No. 2, Connaught Road, on Thursday, 14th inst., at noon. The chair was occupied by the Hon. J. J. Keswick, and there were also present the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. C. S. Sharp, N. A. Siebs, A. Haupt, A. Marshall, P. Sachse, G. H. Medhurst, A. J. Raymond, J. A. Mackay, P. Witkowski (directors), E. Osborne (secretary), T. F. Hough, A. Tillett, J. N. Goosmann, G. L. Tomlin, R. H. Potts, Fair, R. K. Leigh, G. de Champeaux, Macgowan, Palmer, and Chan A. Fook.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen: With your permission I propose to dispense with the reading of the report. The year 1900, as will be seen from the figures detailed in the accounts, was, notwithstanding the check to trade which followed closely upon the political troubles in the North, one of marked progress for the Company, one of the prosperous years in the steady, though sometimes slow, development of your business, and had we been able to take full advantage of the exceptional circumstances brought about by the war the results, good as they are, would have been better, but we had not the accommodation to do all that was asked of us, and consequently were not able to reap the utmost gain from the favourable conditions of the moment. Bearing this in mind and in continuation of our policy of being ahead rather than behind the times, we have made further acquisitions of land and are providing additional accommodation, our object being to possess sufficient room to enable us to carry on work to the satisfaction of constituents and with credit to ourselves. This, under the cramped conditions of the past three years, has not always been possible, but the extensions we have made and others under contemplation should, before long, provide the necessary remedy. The capital of the Company was increased early last year to meet the outlays I have referred to, and in order to preserve a more even balance between our indebtedness and capital. The few shares that were not taken up represent fractions and shares belonging to persons who were absent from the colony, but they will be disposed of during the year. The premium of the new issue it is proposed to place to reserve and no doubt you will approve of this as of the other suggested appropriations of profit. By the typhoon of 10th November the Company's property ashore and afloat suffered to the extent of nearly \$1,000 and I have no hesitation in saying that had there been shelter for our craft we should have lost very considerably less. The Causeway Bay shelter, which no doubt was good enough for the days when it was made, is barely sufficient to receive small craft alone, and quite inadequate for the hundreds, if not thousands, of cargo boats and other craft that need protection in the typhoon season. The anchorage off Yaumati is good so long as the wind remains in one direction, viz., from the North East, but forms a most dangerous trap in the event of it

shifting, as was the case in the November typhoon, and it is to be hoped that further accommodation may be provided in time to avoid a repetition of the damage done on that occasion. The bubonic plague has been a serious trouble and expense to us in the past but I hope the remedial measures adopted will tend to reduce the number of cases during the current year and eventually eradicate the pest altogether. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any question any shareholder may wish to ask.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report.

Mr. GOOSMAN, in seconding, said he thought they could congratulate themselves on the steady development of the company, notwithstanding the great obstacles which sometimes came in their way. He trusted that better accommodation as regards shelter for cargo boats would be provided. Perhaps the Government would take notice of the remarks made by their Chairman, and perhaps their worthy Chairman might find occasion to move in the matter. As things were he thought they might congratulate themselves that their losses had not been very serious. The motion was carried.

On the motion of Mr. HOUGH, seconded by Mr. FAIR, the appointment of Messrs. Marshall, Medhurst, Sharp, and Witkowski as directors was confirmed.

Messrs Haupt and Sachse were re-elected directors, on the motion of Captain TILLET, seconded by Mr. LEIGH.

Messrs F. Henderson and W. Hutton Potts were re-elected auditors, on the motion of Mr. TOMLIN, seconded by Mr. HOUGH.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen: I am much obliged to you for your attendance. That concludes the business of the meeting. Dividend warrants will be posted this afternoon.

The following was the report presented to shareholders at the meeting:—

The directors have now to submit to shareholders their report with a statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1900.

ACCOUNTS.

The gross revenue derived from wharfage; landing, &c., amounted to \$768,593.31 as against \$629,103.80 the previous year, showing an increase of \$139,489.51 and the profit on Working was \$239,585.40 as compared with \$193,340.19 in 1899, being an increase of \$46,245.21.

The balance at credit of profit and loss account after paying interim dividend of 5 per cent. and including \$50,160.61 brought forward from last year is \$435,227.85, which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

Directors' and Auditors' fees ...	\$ 10,500.00
Final dividend of 5 per cent. ...	74,215.00
Transfer to Depreciation and Repairs Account ...	35,000.00
" Reserve fund ...	250,000.00
Write off Launches ...	6,600.00
" Lighters ...	10,316.39
" Railways and Rolling Stock ...	8,366.42
" Kowloon Wharves ...	13,613.29
" West Point Wharf ...	3,000.00
" Sheers ...	405.45
" Furniture and Plant ...	1,208.23
Carry forward to new account ...	22,063.07
	\$435,227.85

BUSINESS.

The troubles in North China caused a diversion of goods to the colony for safe custody and an accession of temporary business in the berthing of transports and handling of military stores. On the other hand imports were restricted and the normal business of the Company suffered accordingly.

CAPITAL.

On 4th May, 1900, the Capital was increased by the issue of 10,000 fully paid up shares of \$50 each at a premium of \$25 per share and 9,686 shares were taken up.

LAND.

During the year the following properties were purchased:—

Kowloon Marine Lot.

No. 22—Area 30,000 square feet for \$ 90,000.00	
No. 3— " 34,500 " }	274,125.00
No. 6— " 30,033 " }	

Total 94,533 \$364,125.00
the last two having godowns on them which were under lease to the Company.

The lane (5,372.6 square feet) round West Point godowns was sold at \$4 per foot with a stipulation that it is not to be built upon, and a strip of ground (4,873 square feet) on the eastern boundary of Kowloon Inland Lots 212, 409, 411 is in course of transfer to Mr. Dorabjee Nowrojee in exchange for the right of way (4,881 square feet) which he possesses over Kowloon Inland Lots 214 and 409. These changes bring the area of the Company's property to:—

	At Kowloon.	At West Point.	Total.
Marine Lots ..sq. ft.	645,233	39,062.6	684,295.6
Inland Lots ..	254,881	—	254,881

Total 900,114 39,062.6 939,176.6
BUILDINGS.

Contracts have been made for the erection of 6 semi-European houses on K. I. L. 415 and a two storied godown on K. M. L. 22. It has also been decided to erect 22 Chinese houses at the back of the Godowns and add upper floors to the six godowns on K. M. L. 21A.

LIGHTERS.

During the year 7 new boats were built and 3 old ones were wrecked in the typhoon of 10th November. The Company now owns 4 decked and 29 open lighters, having an aggregate carrying capacity of 4,000 tons measurement.

WHARVES.

A small wood wharf has been erected in front of Kowloon Marine Lot No. 10.

The West Point wharf cannot last long and has therefore been written off the books.

The increasing size and draught of steamers will probably necessitate the Kowloon wharves being lengthened in the near future.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. H. A. Ritchie, E. S. Wheeler, A. G. Wood and E. Goetz having resigned, their places have been taken respectively by Messrs. A. M. Marshall, G. H. Medhurst, C. S. Sharp and P. Witkowski, and the appointments of these gentlemen require confirmation.

Messrs. A. Haupt and P. Sachse retire in rotation according to the Articles of Association, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. F. Henderson and W. H. Potts have audited the accounts now presented and offer themselves for re-election.

J. J. KESWICK,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1901.

BALANCE SHEET.

31st December, 1900.

Dr.	LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
To capital (20,000 shares at \$50 fully paid up)	1,000,000.00		
To new capital (9,686 shares at \$50 fully paid up)	484,300.00		
	1,484,300.00		
To Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	53,438.06		
To debentures outstanding	500,000.00		
To Land Investment Co.—mortgage account	250,000.00		
To sundry creditors	242,582.18		
	1,046,020.24		
To reserve fund	250,000.00		
To depreciation and repairs account	65,168.20		
To unclaimed dividends	1,084.50		
To profit and loss account, balance	22,063.07		
	\$2,863,636.01		

Cr.	ASSETS.	\$	c.
By value of land and buildings at Kowloon as per last account	1,492,841.24		
By cost of land since acquired	367,029.50		
By since expended on levelling land and on new buildings ..	268,069.10		
	2,127,939.84		
By value of wharves at Kowloon as per last account	107,578.55		
Since expended on new wharf	6,034.74		
	113,613.29		
Less written off	13,613.29		
	100,000.00		
By value of railways and rolling stock at Kowloon as per last account	31,319.57		

Since expended on new rails &c.	81,436.85	
Less written off	63,306.42	
	6,306.42	55,000.00
By value of launches as per last account	3,625.00	
Since expended on new launch	10,975.00	
Less written off	4,600.00	
	6,600.00	35,000.00
By value of lighters as per last account	81,015.88	
Since expended on new lighters	17,912.86	
	99,828.74	
Less value of 3 lighters wrecked in typhoon of 10th November, 1900	1,512.35	
	98,316.39	
Less written off	10,316.39	
		88,000.00
By value of land at West Point (44,435 square feet at \$4) as per last account	177,740.00	
Less sold 5,372.6 square feet at \$4	21,490.00	
		156,250.00
By value of buildings at West Point as per last account	106,893.88	
By value of wharf at West Point as per last account	3,000.00	
Less written off	3,000.00	
By value of sheer legs as per last account	3,405.45	
Less written off	405.45	
		3,000.00
By value of furniture and plant as per last account	7,893.17	
Since expended on new machinery	13,315.06	
	28,208.23	
Less written off	1,208.23	
		25,000.00
By sundry debtors	100,104.31	
By Hongkong Bank (unclaimed dividends)	1,084.50	
By cash on hand	1,032.13	
By value of coal on hand	10,779.95	
By value of timber, iron, and stores on hand	58,551.40	
		\$2,868,636.01

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$ c.
To wages of permanent staff	163,236.93
To Crown land	10,726.51
To taxes	14,233.12
To charges (office and telephone rent, stationery and printing, collecting commission, sundries, &c.	22,338.10
To legal expenses	1,300.51
To fire insurance	3,873.55
To claims on cargo	11,570.83
To expenses on cargo and coal, coolie hire, &c.	282,536.35
To expenses of launches	10,136.57
To expenses of lighters	8,505.44
To balance to profit and loss account	239,585.40
	\$768,593.31

Cr.

By wharfage, storing, &c.	\$ c.
	768,593.31

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$ c.
To interest	45,636.31
To interim dividend	50,000.00
To value of 3 lighters lost in typhoon	\$1,512.35
To loss sale of wreckage	40.00
	1,272.35

To balance appropriated as follows:—	
Directors' and auditors' fees ..	\$10,500.00
Final dividend	74,215.00
Transfer to depreciation and repairs account	35,000.00
Transfer to reserve fund	250,000.00
Amount written off:—	
Launches	6,600.00
Lighters	10,316.39
Railways and rolling stock ..	8,346.42
Kowloon wharves	13,613.29
West Point wharf	3,000.00
Sheer legs	405.45
Furniture and plant	1,208.23
Amount carried to new account ..	22,063.07
	435,227.85

Cr.

By balance from last account	\$ c.
By transfer from working account 1900 ..	50,160.61
By premium on 9,686 shares @ \$25 each ..	239,585.40
By unclaimed dividends	242,150.00
By transfer fees	155.50
	85.00
	\$532,136.51

DEPRECIATION AND REPAIRS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$ c.
To repairs, renewals and improvements during 1900	38,014.99
To balance	65,168.20
	\$103,183.19

Cr.

By balance from 1899	\$ c.
By transfer from profit and loss account ..	68,183.19
	35,000.00
	\$103,183.19

RESERVE FUND.

Dr.	\$ c.
To balance	\$250,000.00
Cr.	\$ c.
By transfer from profit and loss account ..	\$250,000.00

ROBINSON PIANO COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report presented to the shareholders at the first ordinary annual meeting, held at the Company's Office, No. 13, Queen's Road Central, on Wednesday afternoon, the 13th inst.:

The General Manager has pleasure in submitting report and balance sheet for the year 1900.

The gross profits have been \$68,887.74 and the net profits after paying all charges \$24,920.88, equal to about 15½ per cent. on the capital of the Company. It is proposed:—

To pay a dividend of \$5.50 per share, being at the rate of 11 per cent., absorbing	\$17,600.00
To wipe off goodwill account	1,995.71
To carry forward to reserve in new account	5,325.17
	\$24,920.88

The business of the year was interfered with by the state of affairs in the North, and a very considerable number of sales on hire purchase agreements were cancelled in Shanghai, and to a lesser extent in Hongkong, during May to September. The result of the year's working may therefore be considered satisfactory.

Stocks on hand in Hongkong, Shanghai and Singapore are heavier than usual, due in great part to large purchases by the General Manager whilst in London, the Continent and America, arriving towards the end of the year.

Sundry debtors are also heavier than usual, but they have since been largely reduced, as have also accounts payable.

Some new men were sent out by the General Manager and arrived during latter half of the year, so the Company has benefited from their services for a few months only.

New machinery has arrived from America for our Piano Factory, which is now well equipped, and we are enabled to manufacture quicker, better and cheaper than heretofore, and the benefit from which we are confident will mark the present year. The pianos of our own manufacture continue to grow steadily in public favour and to earn the good opinion of experts and general users for their excellent all round good qualities. They compare more than favourably with first class imported makes, and we are able to sell them at \$100 to \$150 less. We have in our Piano Factory a growing and very considerable source of profit.

Prospects for the present year are most excellent, sales to date being much above average, and we have the best right to look forward to the current year's working with the most pleasant anticipations.

The books have been audited by Mr. W. Hutton Potts.

W. G. VAUGHAN-ROBINSON,
General Manager.

Hongkong, 5th March, 1901.

The Peking correspondent of the N.C. Daily News telegraphed on the 4th inst. that Russia had withdrawn the seventh clause in the proposed agreement as to Manchuria, and that China had appealed to the Powers regarding this treaty—a statement which we hope is true. The correspondent also reports that Sir Robert Hart's request that the Customs be allowed to reoccupy their premises in the Legation quarter has been refused.

CHINA & MANILA STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the eighteenth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the general managers on Saturday, 23rd March, 1901, at 12 o'clock noon.

Annexed we beg to submit to shareholders the usual annual statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1900.

The net profit, including the balance from last year, amounts to \$143,819.26, which it is proposed to deal with as follows, viz:—

To place to reserve fund	\$18,000.00
To pay a dividend of 10 per cent	57,974.00
To carry forward to next year's account	67,845.26

To keep up with the growing requirements of the line two first class boats have been contracted for and are now being built at home, and in the meantime the *s.s. Perla*, formerly *Menmuir*, was purchased in January 1900, and has proved to be a very satisfactory acquisition to the Company.

In accordance with special resolutions passed on 14th April, 1900, the capital of the Company was raised to \$1,000,000.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. Lewis retired, and Mr. H. P. White was elected in his place. Messrs. Gillies, Siebs, White and Shewan all retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. T. Arnold and Fullerton Henderson, who are eligible for re-election.

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1901.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For the year 1900.

Donation to Indian Famine Fund	\$ c.
Consulting Committee's fees	500.00
Auditors' fees	4,000.00
Charges	400.00
Interest	1,826.48
Exchange	5,410.68
Amount written off as depreciation	453.68
Balance	54,363.83
	143,819.26

\$210,773.33

Balance brought forward from 1899	\$ c.
Profit on working of the steamers <i>Esmeralda</i> , <i>Diamante</i> , and <i>Perla</i>	1,013.28
Profit on stores	209,563.24
Amount transferred from bad and doubtful debts	195.06
	1.75
	\$210,773.33

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.

Capital:—	\$ c.
6,000 shares at \$50 fully paid up	\$300,000.00
13,987 shares at 20 fully paid up	279,740.00
13 shares at 7 fully paid up	91.00
	579,831.00
Reserve fund	2,000.00
Underwriting account	11,755.63
Sundry creditors	25,067.30
Due to general managers	8,932.48
Unclaimed dividend	532.50
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	109,651.38
Balance of profit and loss	143,819.26
	\$881,609.55

ASSETS.

Value of Company's fleet	\$ c.
Less depreciation for 1900	\$511,323.40
	460,400.00
Installments paid on new steamers	239,668.82
Value of buoys and moorings at Hongkong	3,540.43
Less depreciation for 1900	3,040.43
	500.00
Value of coals on hand	1,225.00
Value of stores on hand	5,304.33
Premium value of unexpired policies	15,811.37
Sundry debtors	58,349.95
Outstanding freight 1899	1,639.25
Outstanding freight 1900	92,468.25
	94,107.50
Cash on hand	6,682.08
	\$881,609.55

We have received the first number of the *Revue de l'Extrême-Orient*, a new weekly paper, published in Shanghai under the direction of M. Tillot.

THE WATKINS, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the second ordinary general meeting, to be held at the office of the Company, at noon, on Tuesday, the 19th inst. Gentlemen,—We have now the pleasure to lay before you a statement of the Company's business and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1900.

The net profits of the Company for the year, after paying all charges, salaries, commission, etc., and providing for bad and doubtful debts, amount to \$18,522.11

To which may be added the undivided profits of the last year 7,022.43
\$25,544.54

We propose to appropriate the above amount as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 12 per cent. on the capital, which will absorb \$12,000.00

To place to equalisation of dividend fund 13,544.54
\$25,544.54

It will be observed that the working expenses in connection with the business have been larger than formerly. This is, in a measure, accounted for by the additional charges for upkeep of the aerated water factory. The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. H. Gaskell.

G. A. WATKINS,
CH'AN A FOOK,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1901.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 8th March.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN W. CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE), AND HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

SUIT NO. 1,049 OF 1900, SUMMARY JURISDICTION. F. EBRAHIM AND CO., APPELLANTS, V. CHI YUEN, RESPONDENTS; AND SUIT NO. 20 OF 1901, SUMMARY JURISDICTION. F. EBRAHIM AND CO., APPELLANTS, V. CHI YUEN, RESPONDENTS.

Their Lordships delivered judgment in these cases.

The Chief Justice said that in these cases the appellants brought a suit—No. 1,049 of 1900—against the respondents, claiming \$134.97 damages, for breach of contract for the sale by the respondents to the appellants of 650 bags of green peas, while the respondents brought a cross-suit—No. 20 of 1901—against the appellants, claiming \$154.61 damages for breach of contract for the purchase by the appellants from the respondents of 650 bags of green peas, of which the appellants failed to take delivery. The two suits were heard together, and on the 16th January, 1901, the Court below gave judgment in favour of the respondents in both cases. From that decision the present appeals were brought. The facts out of which the suits had grown were few and simple. The appellants and respondents were both firms of merchants carrying on business in Victoria. On the 24th November, 1900, the parties entered, through the agency of a broker, into a contract in writing for the sale by the respondents and the purchase by the appellants of 650 bags of green peas. It was understood on both sides that the peas were not ready for delivery but were to be imported from a place called Chan Kong, on the River Yangtze. Bought and sold notes were executed and exchanged which were identical in their terms, *mutatis mutandis*, but the translations of these which had been put in evidence differed materially in their sense. However, it was agreed at the hearing of the appeal that a translation which had been prepared by his learned brother might be taken as correct. According to this translation the bought note said:—“It is settled clearly that within two weeks the goods arrive. On de-

livery of the goods, immediately money notes will be delivered in exchange. It is settled clearly that according to foreign hong rules it is limited to ten days to issue (the goods) in full.” There was some conflict of evidence between the parties as to what took place before and after the making of the contract. The appellants said they informed the broker they wanted the goods “within two weeks.” The broker did not say that he conveyed an intimation to this effect to the respondents, and the respondents denied that he did so. The broker said that the respondents informed him that “a steamer would arrive in two or three days’ time having peas;” and further that they “did not say they must telegraph for them.” On the other hand the respondents stated that they told the broker that they “would send the peas from Ching Kiang (another name for Chan Kong, mentioned in the contract), near Nanking;” that they expected them to arrive after two weeks; “and that on the same day they wired to Ching Kiang.” Again, the broker said that between the 24th November, when the contract was executed, and the 4th December he saw the respondents on four separate occasions, and enquired of them when the peas were going to arrive. The respondents, on the other hand, declared that the broker only came to see them once after the date of the contract, namely, on the 29th November. He must confess that, so far as he could form an opinion with respect to these differing statements from merely reading the notes of evidence, his inclination was to accept the appellant’s version of the matter as more consistent with the terms of the written contract and with the probabilities of the case. At any rate it was clear that the appellants were anxious to get the peas as soon as possible. The question at issue between the parties turned, of course, upon the construction of the contract. On behalf of the respondents, it was contended that they had ten days during which to make delivery of the goods, and that this period of ten days, in the events which had actually happened, commenced to run on the expiration of the other period of 14 days mentioned in the contract, and was to be added to it. The result of this contention would be that the respondents had a period of 14 days altogether during which they could perform the contract on their part. The Court below adopted this construction, holding that the stipulation as to the time within which the goods were to arrive was immaterial and did not go to the essence of the contract, and, as the goods had been notified as ready for delivery on the 24th day, judgment was given for the respondents in both cases. With much respect and after long consideration, he found himself unable to follow this reasoning. It appeared to him that the term as to the arrival of the goods was intended by both parties, and especially by the buyers, to be a material one. In his opinion the appeals in both cases must be allowed. In suit No. 1,049 of 1900 judgment must be entered for the appellants for the difference in price between 440 bags of peas at \$2.75 a picul and the same quantity at \$2.90 a picul. In suit No. 20 of 1901 judgment must be entered for the appellants. The appellants must have their costs in both suits, both in the Court below and in that Court.

The Acting Puisse Judge, after dealing with the points raised, said that in his opinion the judgment of the Court below was sound and the appeal should be dismissed with costs.

Saturday, 9th March.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE), AND HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

CHING KAM MAN, APPELLANT V. CHING CHIN PO, RESPONDENT.

Mr. Francis, K.C., applied *ex parte* for leave to appeal from the judgment delivered in the Summary Jurisdiction of the Court in the case of Ching Ching Po, plaintiff, against Ching Kam Man, defendant. Leave to appeal was granted.

The plaintiff (for whom judgment was given for \$735 and costs), was a trader residing at No. 6, Tit Hong Lane, the defendant being also a trader, residing at No. 8, West Street. The plaintiff claimed from the defendant payment of the sum of \$827.44, balance of money due on the 21st day of December virtue of an agreement dated the 1st day of February, 1900, and made between the defendant and the plaintiff.

Monday 11th March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

LI SHEUNG V. THE WING FUNG TAI FIRM.

In this case the plaintiff sued the defendant for the recovery of possession of tenement No. 19, Jervois Street; \$500 for mesne profits; and he also claimed costs. On the 9th February, His Lordship gave judgment for the defendant.

Mr. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Robinson (instructed by Mr. H. K. Holmes) for the defendants.

Mr. Slade said he regretted to say he must ask for an adjournment. The other side were served with notice of motion as to the rehearing about ten days ago. They were served with an affidavit at the same time, but their affidavit and answer were not served upon his client until two minutes before the sitting of the Court.

Under these circumstances the hearing of the motion for a rehearing was adjourned.

REVIEW.

The Englishman in China during the Victorian Era: as illustrated in the Career of Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., D.C.L. By ALEXANDER MICHIE. Edinburgh and London, William Blackwood & Sons.

From the time of old Peter Auber, who in 1834 published his sketch of the “British and Foreign Embassies to China, and intercourse with that Empire,” down to the end of the century, we have had many detailed accounts of different acts in the drama; but comparatively few, if any, giving a readable historical account of the entire subject, and the strong and weak points of the various actors; and Mr. Michie’s handsome volumes, published appropriately in the very first month of the new century, comes just in time to supply the want. Mr. Michie commences with the Duke of Wellington’s reply to Lord Napier reporting an outrage from Canton, that “it is not by force and violence that His Majesty intends to establish a commercial intercourse between his subjects and China, but by the other conciliatory measures so strongly inculcated in all the instructions which you have received.” Lord Napier’s comment was to the point. “What advantage or what point did we ever gain by negotiating or humbling ourselves before these people or rather before their Government? The records show nothing but subsequent humiliation and disgrace. What advantage or what point, again, have we ever lost that was just and reasonable, by acting with promptitude and vigour? The records again assure us that such measures have been attended with complete success.”

In these two sentences penned in the year 1835 is contained an epitome of our failures and disgraces, as well as of our short intervals of success in China; and from his intimate knowledge as an observant man, as well as from his opportunities from his long connection with one of the earliest and most capable mercantile houses in China, no man is better fitted for the task he has laid out for himself in the work under review than Mr. Alexander Michie.

“Driven to death by Chinese official barbarities, and by the discouragement of his own Government, Lord Napier was succeeded first by one, then by another, of the East India Company’s old staff, who could only maintain themselves by sinking their character of British national envoys and submitting to the indignities which the Chinese more than ever delighted in imposing on them, increasing in virulence in proportion as the resistance to them grew weaker.”

Such was true of the British Government in the Duke of Wellington's time, and we may ask our readers in what essential particulars it differs from the very similar conduct of the same Government under Lord Salisbury. This is in fact the text of the work; partial successes gained by the strong hand or won by the abilities of exceptional men, have by a succession of ignorant ministries at home been frittered away, and Chinese affairs locally been placed in the hands of feeble faddists, till the inevitable force from behind has gradually penetrated the dam, and the whole structure has been carried away at the first storm; only to involve its entire reconstruction generally on the same mistaken lines as at first. Truly it was said of the Jews of old that they built the sepulchres of the prophets whom their fathers had persecuted to the death, and our own Foreign Office in its apotheosis of its discarded servants and its utter neglect of their warnings may find in the simile a not inapt portrait of its own disabilities and shortcomings.

From the very beginning British intercourse with China has been unfortunate in its surroundings. It was founded by the East India Company, who in China had no political object, and whose anxiety for the trade was limited to its ability to pay the customary yearly dividend. "The Board of Directors in Leadenhall Street demanded remittances, and cared nothing for the indignities which their distant agents might be forced to undergo in order to supply these demands. The interests at stake were too valuable to be put at issue upon considerations of a personal nature." To understand this we must look back to early times in the Far East. There the Chinese Empire was unique; it had indeed for a few centuries about the beginning of our era communicated on equal terms with the empire of Parthia, then at its zenith, but circumstances had occurred to interfere with that intercourse, and for nearly sixteen centuries China had had no communication with a single state with whom it was possible to treat on equal terms. We might have seen the same in Europe had the Roman Empire been left to decay free from external invasion. China's neighbours had come to look upon her as the emblem of imperial power, and with her from lack of external stimulus, had not taken note of the progress of inevitable decay which had entered deeply into the body politic. China had in her decay acquired from the lack of personal association with equals all the instincts of the petty tyrant, and when the barriers which had shut her out from civilisation were removed from outside was unable to recognise the position. Unfortunately the one power which might have brought about a gradual amelioration was muffled; the East India Company acted as a buffer and effectually by its misrepresentations of the situation to each in turn prevented any foundation being laid for mutual intercourse. The Board of Directors were by no means displeased at Lord Napier's discomfiture, and the British Government listening unwisely to their suggestions continued the old system. The third in succession to Lord Napier was Captain Charles Elliot, and he, as Mr. Michie tells us, going "far beyond his instructions in his efforts to conciliate the Chinese," brought down the old house about his ears, and may be looked upon as the unconscious author of our modern relations.

Such is the point from which Mr. Michie's narrative starts; though nominally a history of Sir Rutherford Alcock's life, Sir Rutherford only appears in it in connection with the drama of British intercourse. It is true that his life was in an important period continuous with that intercourse, and cannot be dissociated with its history, but Mr. Michie's work is in no sense to be taken as a biography, but rather as a history from a commanding point of view of the entire subject. The comparatively brief portion of the work occupied with details of the late Minister's private life intensifies the position.

It fell to Captain Elliot's lot to have to be the first to announce the failure of his well-intended, though unwise attempts to promote harmony between the dissimilar elements which constituted European and Chinese policy. Under threat of extermination the entire British community at Canton suddenly found themselves fugitives; they were refused the hospitalities of Macao, and had to take refuge on board the few ships which were available, while Captain Elliot had to despatch his last man of war to

seek reinforcements from Calcutta. Eventually this led to the occupation of Hongkong. Capt. Elliot belonged to the most dangerous class of humanity—the amiable faddists who have been in all ages answerable for more misery than the most truculent of conquerors—and was instrumental in rendering inevitable those very abuses which he sought to suppress. Constitutionally he was an opponent of coercive measures, yet his efforts to avoid them rendered them actually necessary; he was above all things an anti-opiumist, yet it was his peculiar fate to be for ever associated with what from ignorance of the issues at stake has by faddists like himself come to be known as the "first Opium War."

Mr. Michie gives in brief a succinct account of the events which followed the declaration of war; and from its completion the real interest of the story begins. Speaking of Sir Henry Pottinger and the peace, which for the first time gave hope of improvement in the mutual relations of the two countries, he remarks: "It accorded with the fitness of things that the negotiator of the treaty should remain to carry out its provisions. . . . Though the wound to the pride of China was deep and still fresh, the Imperial Commissioners' acceptance of the new state of things exceeded what the most stoical philosophy could call for. They came in person, on invitation, to the alienated island, there to exchange the ratifications of the Nanking treaty; entered heartily into the life of the community, showed great interest in their nascent institutions, and returned to Canton charmed with English civilisation." In fact it seemed as if the goal were reached, and China were about to enter the comity of nations. How often have we listened to the same parrot-like cry, which even at the moment in spite of every warning we hear wafted in a still small voice over the troubled waters!

"As long," Mr. Michie adds, "as Sir Henry Pottinger was negotiating under the guns of Her Majesty's ships he was master of the situation, but when pitted against the Chinese in the open field the position was reversed, for they had definite aims and knew how to gain them. Arrangements were found necessary for the conduct of trade at the five consular ports; the relations between the colony of Hongkong and the empire of China, as regards criminals, &c., required definition; and, more important still, the native shipping frequenting its harbour had to be regulated. The negotiations required for these purposes afforded Kiyung a favourable opportunity for giving effect to the reactionary policy of the Chinese Government. The supplementary treaty was negotiated at the Bogue between Sir Henry Pottinger and Kiyung in October, 1843. The Chinese version seems to have been signed by the British agent without his having before him a textual English translation: by its provisions the Chinese authorities engaged to protect the junk traffic in colonial waters. Sir Henry Pottinger did not realise the kind of weapon he had thus placed in the hands of his friends until its damaging effects were demonstrated by experience. Then what had been lost by diplomacy was endeavoured to be recovered by persuasion. To this end strenuous efforts were made by successive Governors of Hongkong to induce Kiyung to forego some of the powers which had been inadvertently conferred on him, as their exercise was proving ruinous to the trade of the island. But as this result was precisely what had been intended by the Chinese, nothing short of another war would have moved them to yield a single point."

We have tarried perhaps too long on this single incident, but as *mutatis mutandis* it represents what has inevitably on every occasion when having dismissed his supporting force a British plenipotentiary has essayed to treat on equal terms with a Chinese diplomat, we have thought it best to copy it in full. A still graver error on Sir Henry's part was his delay in insisting on the right of entry into Canton granted by the treaty. The Chinese, not unnaturally from their limited point of view, concluded that the delay proceeded from fear; and this it was which, with its resulting friction, finally led up to the second, the so-called "Arrow" war.

During this period the subject of Mr. Michie's memoir, Dr. Alcock, afterwards Sir Rutherford Alcock, came out to China, and soon made a name for

himself as a man of judgment and decision. He was frequently called upon for his opinion as to the course of events, and within his own jurisdiction was able to show that no encroachments had been permitted to grow up. But though one British Minister after another was willing to ask and profit by his advice, the old mistakes continued, and the Foreign Office, strong in its wilful ignorance of China still preferred the China of its imagination to the China of fact. The period is, however, one of great interest in our relations with China, especially as most of the causes which have since affected our intercourse for good or evil had therein their first inception. Mr. Michie's work now becomes of the greater interest and importance, inasmuch as he now became an interested spectator of the course of events on the spot.

These experiences are exhibited in a series of sketches, painted with a skilled hand, of the general conditions prevailing, and amongst these we find chapters on the new intercourse at Canton, Foochow, Amoy, Ningpo, and last, though by no means least, Shanghai. The latter affords us sketches of the progress on the Taiping rebellion, and of the origin and progress of that great, and, as at one time it seemed, the most likely forerunner of a new era in China, the Foreign Inspectorate of Customs. With the foundation of the Inspectorate the names of Alcock and Wade must for good or evil ever be associated; the former as its first originator, the latter as its initial chief; and it is not too much to say that the subsequent career of both men was deeply affected by their temporary connection with this institution, the latter especially for the worse, inasmuch as it served to confirm all the weak points in a character which, with some elements of possible greatness, possessed already the weak points of want of self-dependence and stability.

Perhaps the most interesting portion of Mr. Michie's book for the ordinary mercantile resident in China will prove to be those chapters wherein he gives a short but masterly sketch of the development of trade in the various commodities which then formed the staples of trade with China. When at first British trade sprang up in Canton it was mainly confined to two commodities—opium and tea. The value of the opium imported far exceeded the value of the tea sent out of the country, and the difference soon commenced to tell on the currency, which, as in all Asiatic countries, was founded on no well regulated principle. Unable to attribute the changes being gradually brought about, the Chinese officials saw it in the opium trade, and a large section of the officials who lived in the interior, and consequently derived no personal advantage, were always opposed to its continuance. Not so the officials at Canton, whose personal perquisites were largely dependent on the trade which had practically become a monopoly in their hands. Neither conceived nor pretended themselves to be in any measure concerned in the moral question. It was not long before the Emperor's Court at Peking discovered the profitable nature of the trade; and as the office of Hoppo was in the personal gift of the Emperor and was always conferred on a court favourite, the honorarium to be exacted grew in proportion. To have legalised the traffic would have interfered with their private arrangements, while, on the other hand, it was more than ever necessary that the utmost should be squeezed out of the trade, and that it should be rigidly confined to Canton.

Captain Elliot failed to enter into the spirit of the game, and made the capital mistake of interpreting the Hoppo's interferences as proceeding from any genuine desire to stop the traffic. When, therefore, he himself interfered and surrendered the opium on board the ships to Commissioner Lin, he did the thing of all others that provoked retaliation. To save face the Commissioner had sorely against his will to destroy the opium, but in destroying the opium he took care that he would involve Captain Elliot in the opprobrium. Although by the new treaty the trade was not legalised, it soon established itself at all the treaty ports, where it was carried on openly. The Customs did not indeed nominally tax the opium, but the ship went alongside the opium barge permanently anchored below the official "limits" of the port, and having discharged her opium, went to berth, where she

was at once boarded by the Customs officer in charge and her "cargo" duly taken account of. The course of trade was meanwhile changing; in the old days when tea was almost the sole article of export the drain of silver, as we have seen, raised serious doubts as to the possibility of the country being able to stand the continual drain. The failure for a series of years of the silk crop in Europe now brought about a reversal of the picture. Europe was in turn being drained of her available silver for remittance to China to pay for silk, and the Shanghai tael, at the time intrinsically worth 5s. 10d., was in exchange transactions sold for no less than 7s. Trade had become impossible in those ante-steam and ante-telegraph days, unless some countervailing import to balance the export of silk could be arrived at. As practical men it was found that any interference with the natural flow of trade would be disastrous for every one—England, China, as well as the merchants of both countries. Alcock, who at first was a steadfast opponent of the opium traffic, had, as a man charged with large international issues, to fall in with the necessities of the case; and except with a few irresponsible faddists, we heard little of the supposed iniquities of the trade.

In many other respects Consul Alcock took much interest in promoting trade, and Mr. Michie more particularly draws attention to his endeavours to create an interest in the Great Exhibition of 1851, which, probably for the reason that the value of exports was already in excess of imports, did not meet with much response from a community whose aims were directed rather to increasing the body of imports.

Of the traders themselves, who at the time were engaged against many difficulties in building-up a great trade between China and the west, Mr. Michie gives a most interesting account. The men to whose lot fell this difficult and often thankless task, both native and foreign, well deserve consideration. "It was they," as he reminds us, "who created the subject matter of all foreign relations, and stood in the breach in all struggles between foreign and native officials. It was their persons and their fortunes which were at stake; it was they who first felt the shock of disturbance, and were the first to reap the fruits of peace."

The relation of the foreign mercantile community to their official representatives was not always free from friction, because the same high authority which enjoined on the officials the protection of the persons and the promotion of the interests of the lay community, empowered them also to rule over their protégés, and to apply to them an arbitrary discipline in accordance with what they conceived to be the exigencies of the time. As for the merchants, it had become a genial task to lecture them on what certain people conceived to be their moral duty; they were, too, often admonished of some presumed obligation on their part to sacrifice individual advantage to the (presumed) greater good of the greater number. However this may have been, as a body there has seldom been brought together a finer body of men than those who in those pioneer days constituted the great bulk of the British merchants in China. They were eminently picked men from the very necessity of the position, as travel was difficult, and personal responsibility was great. Often against the prejudices of English exporters and the direct orders of half-informed merchants at home, as well as in the face of a public opinion at home warped by some temporary fad, they had to hold their own. The Government was always indifferent, often hostile, and its agents in China too faithfully obeyed its behests in actually throwing obstacles in the path of legitimate trade. Against all these trying circumstances the British merchant in China had to present a steady front, and not only to do so, but to continue to keep on terms with his native coadjutor. The latter, too, obtains from Mr. Michie a well earned tribute of praise. If the British merchant of old in China were a man of resource and probity, he had taught his Chinese fellow in many respects to follow in his footsteps; confidence in one begot confidence in the other. The Chinese merchant held his word in all business transactions as good as his bond. The mere entry of a transaction in the books of a

firm was held to be sufficient proof of its existence; the native was trusted with large sums of money to expend over which the depositor had absolutely no control beyond the good faith of his agent; and it is to the credit of both sides that never on one side or the other was any further enquiry found necessary. So matters continued till the old sore about the conduct of a new Commissioner sent down to Canton to restrain the "barbarian" again aroused the declining dogs of strife; and a new war led to a new chapter in the ever recurring drama of Eastern exclusiveness against Western advance.

The Arrow War, which name we may conveniently apply to the war of which the capture of the *lorcha Arrow* was but an incident, may be said to have commenced in December, 1856, by the burning of the "Foreign Factories" at Canton, and the issue of a proclamation by Viceroy Yeh, offering rewards for English heads. Yeh marked the close of an era which had been initiated by Commissioner Lin, and it may be said to have finally ended in the peace concluded in Tientsin on the 27th June, 1858. Of the war Mr. Michie's work gives a condensed, though useful account; Wingrove Cooke, Lawrence Oliphant, Stanley Lane-Poole, De Moges and others give full details. During the final negotiations at Tientsin, an ominous figure momentarily appeared on the scene; that was a reappearance of old Kiyung, who, after a long period of disgrace, consequent on his association with the "barbarian" in the occupation of Hongkong, was as a last resource sent down to join the Chinese peace commissioners in the hope that his previous successes in the colony might prove of advantage in softening the demands of the British and French plenipotentiaries. Kiyung began the old tactics on his arrival: Admiral Seymour was insulted, several English officers were stoned, and every attempt made in the approved manner to get up a row; the old Canton policy was being tried on, and the populace were invoked as the instigators. Unfortunately old Kiyung had in a confidential report to the Emperor disclosed in so many words the game he had been playing, and amongst the papers found in Yeh's yamen on his capture was the original memorial. Kiyung was sent for, and in the most polite manner shown his own document; the old diplomatist was caught in his own trap, and disappeared. He was not forgotten by his Emperor, who sent him an equally polite message that he had lived sufficiently long. Kiyung had no option but to accept; Yeh, too, overcome by chagrin, shuffled off his mortal coil in imprisonment at Calcutta.

They had no successors; the vulgar bully—a type well displayed in Dr. Smith's *Village Life in China*—is for the future represented by the village sneak, of which order Li Hung-chang may be accepted as a typical example. The characters in the drama of history in China are as distinctly marked as their representatives on the Chinese stage, and given the previous scene we may safely predicate the chief actors and the part to be played by each. The disturbing element is here the European, and the part in controlling the piece to be taken by the Great Powers.

It was unfortunate that the choice of the British Government fell upon a man of sentiment rather than of action. Lord Elgin was a man of ability, but had conceived a strange aversion towards Hongkong, and more especially towards its Governor, Sir John Bowring, who united in his own person the somewhat incongruous posts of Governor of the colony and Superintendent of Trade and Plenipotentiary. Sir John belonged to the order of philosophic Radicals, with whom the world seemed capable of reduction to geometric rules. It was a belief not uncommon in the mid century, but the Governor found the calculations in his island territory so entangled that to his credit he gave them up and acted like any ordinary man. He came to be accused of favouring the mercantile interest, and Lord Elgin, who hated trade and despised traders, determined that he would throw overboard all three. "The wise man, without moving, understands; without observing, comprehends; without action, achieves." So said the Chinese sage; and Lord Elgin, a steadfast though unconscious disciple of the "Doctrine," made it his rule in his subsequent negotiations to despise the opinions of those who from experience were

qualified to judge, and to ignore the facts of past failures. The treaty he made had been previously drafted by the Foreign Offices in London and Paris. So little had he to say to it that on its signature he characteristically observed: "Anyone could have made the treaty." Of him Mr. Michie pertinently says:

"It was his fate, much against his will apparently, to wage war on China in order to vindicate a right which had lapsed through the weakness and wrong-headedness of certain British representatives; yet in the closing act of a perfectly successful war he commits the self-same error on a more comprehensive scale, entailing on some future Government and plenipotentiary the necessity of making yet another war on China to recover what he was giving away. What is the explanation of this continuous repetition of the same mistake? It would seem that, knowing nothing of the Chinese, yet imagining they knew something, the representative of Great Britain and of other Powers, notably the United States, have been in the habit of evolving from their own consciousness and keeping by them a subjective Chinaman with whom they play 'dummy,' and of course 'score horribly,' as the most recent diplomatic slang has it. Their despatches are full of this game—of reckoning without their host, who, when brought to book, turns out to be a wholly different person from the intelligent automaton kept for Cabinet use.

To this kind of illusion Lord Elgin was by temperament more predisposed than any of his predecessors, save Captain Elliot. Though convinced by his first encounter that Chinese statesmen were fools and tricksters, the simulacrum soon asserted supremacy over the actuality of experience, and to the honour of the very persons so stigmatised he committed the interests of his country, abandoning all the securities which he held in his hand."

Alluding to the spirit in which he undertook the task entrusted to him, our author quotes his own words:—

"I have seen more to disgust me with my own countrymen than I saw during the whole course of my previous life. . . . I have an instinct in me which loves righteousness and hates iniquity, and all this keeps me in a perpetual boil. . . . The tone of the two of three men connected with mercantile houses in China whom I find on board is all for blood and massacre on a great scale."

Believing this, and acting according to their consciences, most men of honour would have resigned the task imposed on them. Lord Elgin's conscience was not so straight-laced. Believing he was doing wrong, as we have his own words for stating, he yet characteristically for a consideration accepted the task; and tried to square it with his conscience by deliberately spoiling the work. This is the dilemma in which we are placed by his own confession in passing judgment on the man. Probably he thought that there was more honour with less trouble to be gained from being the first to conclude a treaty with Japan; and this is the most lenient view we are permitted to take of his undeniable failure in China.

Be this as it may, having made the treaty according to his instructions, instead of waiting to see its ratification, which only entailed a journey of some eighty miles, he without waiting a moment showed his disregard of the whole spirit of his instructions, and scuttled off to Japan. The Chinese who had taken the measure of their man, on his return approached him and by cajolery induced him to rescind the most important stipulation—that of residence in Peking. There were no telegraphs in those days, and Lord Elgin, who felt that the game had been thrown away, and seeing that the lapsed condition could not be regained without another war which he had not the requisite courage to undertake, slipped ignominiously out of China. So ingloriously ended the second China war. Before he left China he himself pronounced his own condemnation; his despatches remain to bear witness against him. "A variety of circumstances lead me to the conclusion that the Court at Peking is about to play us false" was the burden of his last despatch.

What all Lord Elgin's colleagues had warned him at the time would assuredly happen came the next year to pass. His brother, Mr. Fred-

erick Bruce, came out accredited to the Court at Peking as first British Minister. On arriving at Taku, escorted by the fleet, he found the river blocked and entrance forbidden to the Minister; an attack with such force as the admiral had available was repulsed with considerable loss of life, and the third China war became a necessity.

Lord Palmerston no longer held office, and a vacillating Government again sent out Lord Elgin with a sufficient military and naval force. This time the French had joined in as allies, and it was hoped that the long-lived China "difficulty" would at last be solved. It probably might have been, but by a strange infatuation the errors of the past were repeated. Warnings, as the Book of Proverbs reminds us, are thrown away on certain individuals, and Lord Elgin showed himself a notable example of the man who could not learn. The French and English forces, after some fighting, made themselves masters of the Taku forts, and from that place advanced towards Peking, nowhere meeting with serious opposition. Lord Elgin's instructions were to conclude a treaty nowhere except in Peking; the Chinese on the other hand left not a stone unturned to induce him to conclude a truce at any other spot. The troops had advanced as far as Hsiuwu, a place 30 or 40 miles from the Capital, when the Chinese expressed their desire to open negotiations; this proved, however, to have been dictated by treachery, as it turned out that the spot where they had intended to induce the troops to camp was a death-trap enfiladed by the enemy's artillery. A detachment under a flag of truce was sent to arrange a suitable site; it was received with all apparent courtesy, but when out of sight was set upon and the individuals captured. They were at once sent in chains to Peking, where the greater number were tortured to death. The individuals concerned in this barbarous act were perfectly well known; they were never punished, and the example, as we have learned to our cost, grew into a precedent. Until the recent attempted murders of the Ministers *en bloc*, no Chinese official has ever been punished for his crimes, however treacherous or contrary to the established laws of nations. As if to place Lord Elgin's incapacity to comprehend the situation in the clearest light, he made the misdeed the occasion of one of the greatest outrages on civilisation ever committed—in the looting and burning of the Summer Palace. When Omar burnt the Library at Alexandria he had at least some excuse. "If the books are in accordance with the doctrines of the Prophet, they are superfluous; if they contravene them, they ought to be destroyed." This rabble as was the excuse, it was better than could be offered for the destruction of this priceless museum to save the heads of a few savages like Sankolinsin and his fellow plotters.

When Lord Elgin had arrived at Peking, a similar course was adopted. A still small voice, too often to be heard subsequently in our dealings with China, whispered in his ear the old platitudes; Lord Elgin listened to it with the sympathy common to weak minds. The result was that the army never entered the city, and from that day till the present year the total defeat of the Foreigner in his impious attempt to take the capital remains recorded in all official histories.

The omen was uncanny. It presently came that, as the autumn was advancing, and the British Peace Commissioner was by no means disposed to face the inconvenience of a winter in North China, he as usual commenced to think of his departure. The Russian Minister General Ignatieff, a most charming man, had cautioned him against the danger of remaining during the winter, and Lord Elgin was not a man to sacrifice himself in the interests of his country; so it was again in his opinion necessary to hurry out of the way. His brother, the Honourable Frederick Bruce, had been appointed Minister, so no time was lost in presenting him to Prince Kung, which done, the British Commissioner washed his hands of the business, and cleared out as quickly as his private arrangements would permit.

The Hon. Frederick Bruce was probably a superior man to his brother, and when aroused was capable of exercising a sound judgment, and even acting on it. "He was," as Mr. Michie, quoting Sir Hope Grant, remarks, "a fine

upright, honourable fellow; tall and strong made, with a remarkably good expression of countenance." No one ever doubted Mr. Bruce's good qualities; the worst was that, as amongst the people of Laputa, they needed to be aroused; and as the Minister's Secretary and right-hand man was the last to take such a step, no one had ever the opportunity of testing the truth of their conviction. The career of the Minister was chiefly distinguished by the negative virtues; and Peking and Sleepy Hollow came to be accepted as synonyms. The Emperor Hienfeng had on Lord Elgin's first apparition bolted to Jehol, where

Through wood and dale the sacred river ran,
Then reach'd the caverns measureless to man,
And sank in tumult to a lifeless ocean.

He never returned to Peking, and in a little time died. The throne descended to his only son, born of the concubine Tsz'hi, who, herself a native of Canton, had fascinated in turn the Tartar General in Kwangtung, and the Emperor himself. A regency was formed consisting of the Emperor's brothers, the Empress Dowager and the Empress Mother. As according to Oriental etiquette the ladies could not be seen, all business had to be carried on by the male portion of the body; but although the business was conducted by the late Emperor's brothers, the real power lay with the Empresses, more especially with the Empress Mother, who still retained many of those personal charms which had captivated those with whom she had come in contact in her early days; and who had ended by capturing the Emperor himself. The situation was an ideal one for the growth of intrigue, and with the Empress Mother was not thrown away. Suffice it to say that by one means or other the other members of the Regency one by one disappeared, and finally the erst concubine found herself the sole surviving member, as she had all through been the actuating spirit.

The period was marked by some very important measures which have had an abiding effect on Chinese policy ever since. One and perhaps the most important, was the suppression of the Taiping rebellion, which at one period seemed likely to result in the destruction of the reigning dynasty. When Lord Elgin went up the Yangtze River he found the greater part of the lower river occupied on both banks by the rebels, whose excesses had almost depopulated this, the most prosperous portion of the Empire. It was found necessary to make some arrangements for the freedom of trade. The rebels either would not or could not abide by these arrangements, and little by little the Allies were drawn into taking an active part against the insurgents. This led to a regular campaign under Gordon in lower Kiangsu, which resulted in the final suppression of the movement by the recapture of Soochow. Unfortunately the feeling thus engendered led to a gradual relaxation of the facilities gained by the war, of which the Chinese took the utmost advantage to resume the old obstructive policy. The war was noteworthy in bringing to the surface the Futai of Kiangsu, Li Hung-chang, whose name came afterwards to be so closely associated with political affairs as to be a household word in every part of the world. For good or evil Li is henceforward the ruling spirit in the intercourse of China with outside countries, and more than anyone else has swayed the fortunes of his country. The second measure with which this period is more immediately connected is the consolidation of the Foreign Customs. Its foundation was indeed due to the previous, where it was associated with Alcock and Wade. The accidental fact that the latter acted for a short time as its head left an indelible impression on his after career, and the future Minister was undoubtedly afterwards swayed in many particulars by the fact that he too had once been a Chinese official—a weakness of which his more wily colleagues did not fail to take full advantage.

The main characteristic of this period in China must, however, be always associated with the comparative decline of British influence in China, and the advance of Russia and France. From the time of Peter the Great the march of Russia through Asia, which under previous rulers had been as it were accidental, became a matter of fixed policy to be accomplished by any and every means, right or wrong—rather in this advance of Holy Russia no means, however

opposed to ordinary canons, could be wrong. "For more than a century we have advanced with diligence, and at the price of enormous sacrifices across the barren Steppes. They are now left behind, and we are in face of a rich and fertile land. We have a right to seek compensation for our sacrifices in its acquisition."

Such was the argument, the justice of which was accepted by every Russian, from the Tsar to the lowest moujik. Contemporaneously with Lord Elgin's advance to Peking the Russians had been drawing gradually down towards the neglected region north of the Amur, and consolidating their settlements in that direction. Across that river lay a great and rich country bounded on the east by the Pacific Ocean, which formerly had been the home of Manchu conquerors of China, but was now, save for a few plundering bands, practically uninhabited. The Crimean War had shown to Russia the advantage of having a station for her war-ships in the Far East, and the British had neglected the opening which events had prepared. It might not be the case that on another opportunity England would act so disinterested a part, and it were better to be first in the field.

Anyway when Lord Elgin was going into Peking he met M. Popoff, the Secretary of the Russian Mission, going out; their missions were curiously opposed. Lord Elgin with no thought of territorial aggrandisement was going to effect a treaty whose result, it was hoped, would be to make China one of the commonalty of nations; M. Popoff had a scheme of his own, which did not concern the world, but which did largely concern Russia. He was going to interview General Ignatieff, the newly appointed Russian Minister, whose instructions were to shadow Lord Elgin, and the French Minister, and—make the best use of the situation. The means were left to himself. Ignatieff was a man well known in English society, and thoroughly conversant with England. Like most educated Russians, he was affable and sympathetic—a "charming fellow." He rendered many useful little civilities to the legation, and with due care for Mr. Bruce's personal comfort advised him not to spend the winter in an unfinished house in Peking. He had his reward.—Ignatieff did not let the snow accumulate on his path, but went straight to the point, and under pretence of saving China from the demands of the Allies persuaded Prince Kung into the cession of the sea-board of Manchuria; now the Russian province of Primorsk, and probably the richest district in temperate Asia. In its secondary effects the cession of Primorsk, has brought Russia so close to Peking that the political effect has been to increase vastly Russia's power of interference; and when to this is superadded the undoubted inferiority of the men successively entrusted with promoting British interests, it is easy to calculate the rest.

For good or evil England had admitted France to a participation in her Chinese policy, and France at the time was well disposed. But France, even when actuated by the most friendly feelings, had ambitions of her own, and of these the most characteristic was refounding a colonial empire. She had long put forward vague claims to be the protectress of Roman-Christian missions, and having got the point in China, easily applied the lever in the Indo-Chinese peninsula. China resented these efforts of France in the usual bungling manner which invariably places her in the wrong, even when her moral position is clear.

The end of all was that France came into possession of the greater part of the peninsula, Siam and the British territories alone excepted. France would not be France did this huge meal not quicken her appetite for more; so she established a system of gnawing at China. This might have been of comparatively small importance but that she suddenly conceived a strange platonic friendship for Russia, and threw herself with an *empressment* which more sober nations found difficult to realise into the arms of her gigantic *amoureux*. Although Russia had not sought the liaison, she would have been more than human had she neglected to take advantage of it, and we find the two nations making together in Peking with the avowed object of undermining British influence. Another Power was however affected in scarcely a less degree than England, and that was Germany; and as Russia had unblushingly

taken advantage of the weakness of England and China to advance into Shingkin, Germany thought herself called on to follow, and the feeling thus engendered spread like an epidemic through Europe.

Only half in earnest in their dealings with China, one British Government after another had committed the mistake of stopping short, and leaving the work commenced half done. By a curious fatality the work had in each case been entrusted to inferior men—one man only, and that a man, afterwards Sir Harry Parkes, who had been formed by his surroundings, having ever been able to grasp the situation. Sir Harry Parkes died at his post at Peking, as is generally believed, the victim of disappointment, if not as has been darkly hinted of a worse fate and the first attempt at independence in action on the part of a Minister has been invariably followed by his disgrace.

Under the circumstances it is little wonder that the Foreign Office finds an increasing difficulty in filling the post of British Minister at Peking, which has notoriously become the Cloacina of Downing Street. Mr. Bruce the first minister under the new regime thus laid down the principles under which intercourse was to be carried on. "The important result to be gained by the establishment of direct relations with the Government of Peking is the avoidance of local acts of violence, you must not go beyond pacific efforts to remedy the abuses complained of." A junior who, temporarily in charge of an important consulate, had in June 1870 by a timely personal remonstrance at the Governor's yamen prevented a similar massacre to that at Tientsin, received from the Minister a despatch informing him that as junior he had no right to communicate with the high officials, and winding up with the personal remark that all he was fit for was to excite through the papers the feelings of the British community. As Mr. Michie adds: "All this about 'forcing' the local officials and 'forcing' the Imperial Government, without using any force, recalls the ancient Chinese maxim of ruling barbarians by misrule. The world rested securely enough on the tortoise, but what did the tortoise itself rest on? With grim satisfaction must the Chinese Ministers have watched the foreigners entering on a desert campaign where they would exhaust their strength without reaching the enemy."

The picture needs no heightening from us; we leave it to our readers as it appears in the interesting pages of Mr. Michie's history.

CRICKET.

H.K. C.C. V. ARMY.

This match, played on the 8th and 9th inst., resulted in a disastrous defeat for the Club by an innings and 73 runs. On as fast and as true a pitch as the No. 1 coolie has provided this season, the Club batted first, but compiled only the meagre total of 120, of which Salter claimed 61, including 48 by boundaries—sufficient evidence of the determined character of an excellent innings.

The start of the Army innings was ominous, but not prophetic. From 2 for 18, the score was quickly taken to 3 for 88, Dyson soon warming to his work and running up another sound innings of 44. The big stand was that for the fourth wicket, which raised the total from 88 to 226. The performers were Langhorne and Lumb, who both left at the latter figure. Going in first, Langhorne from the start played confident and brilliant cricket, and gave a display which has not been beaten this season. Congratulations on his return to form were general. At the close of the first day's play he had made his century and, resuming next morning, carried his individual score to 131, which is the second largest score of the season. Lumb and Dorehill both played up to their reputations and subsided substantially. The former was finally taken at p-int by Lyne close to the ground. The catch which concluded Preedy's merry innings brought down the house. Running at full speed, Mayhew just reached the ball with one hand high up within a few feet of the position which has caused many a man to misjudge a catch; not so on this occasion, how-

ever. Facing arrears of 227, the Club began its second batting venture at 2.15, but did not fare much better than in its first attempt. The scoring was more even, but was not many. Mast gave one of his hard batting displays, which are always much appreciated, and Salter played patient and correct cricket. Whilst he was in Smith was very busy, but a puny total of 144 was all that the Club could achieve—a very unsatisfactory result. However, the game's the thing, and, admittedly, some very good cricket was played. Forsyth made two well-judged catches at long on. Preedy kept up his end unchanged and trundled very fast: his analysis of 9 wickets for 114 runs speaks for itself. Dorehill, with 6 for 31, had the best record, but did not bear the brunt of the attack. Kriekenbeek kept a good length and captured 5 for 93, which was ahead of anything that the Club bowlers could do.

The Colonel and Officers of the R.W.F. courteously allowed their band to attend on Saturday afternoon.

Appended are the score and analysis:—

H.K. C.C.		Second Innings.	
First Innings.			
Mr. T. Sercombe Smith	1 b.w., b Kriekenbeek	18	1 b w., b Preedy
Lieut. Mayhew, R.M.L.I.,	b Preedy	4	b Preedy
Mr. Franklin, R.N., b	Preedy	11	b Kriekenbeek
Lieut. Noble, R.N., c sub.	b Kriekenbeek	0	c Forsyth, b Krick
Com. Lyne, R.N., b Preedy	0	c Forsyth, b Dore-	11
Mr. Salter, not out	61	b Dorehill	29
Mr. E. Mast, b Preedy	0	c Ainslie, b Dorehill	35
Mr. J. Hooper, 1 b.w., b	Kriekenbeek	1	b Preedy
Mr. C. H. P. Hay, b Preedy	5	b Preedy	1
Mr. Thurston, R.N., b	Dorehill	2	b Dorehill
Mr. Alexander, R.N., c	Kriekenbeek, b Dorehill	1	not out
Extras	17	Extras	9
Total	120	Total	144

THE ARMY.

Capt. Langhorne, R.A., c and b Franklin	131
Lieut. Kriekenbeek, 22nd Bx., b Salter	6
Capt. Ainslie, 3rd M.L.I., b Salter	0
Major Dyson, A.P.D., b Franklin	44
Lieut. Lumb, 3rd M.L.I., c Lyne, b Salter	37
Major Dorehill, R.A., c Thurston, b Ser-	31
combe Smith	
Lance. Corp. Preedy, R.W.F., c Mayhew,	26
b Sercombe Smith	
Lieut. Nicholson, 3rd M.L.I., b Sercombe	16
Smith	
Major Buttanshaw, A.S.C., c Salter, b Ser-	8
combe Smith	
Lieut. Forsyth, R.A., c Noble, b Franklin	21
Capt. Tulloch, R.A., not out	0
Extras	17
Total	337

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

H.K. C.C.								
First Innings.				Second Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Preedy	16	5	49	5	21	5	65	4
Kriekenbeek ..	11	3	39	3	12	1	54	2
Dorehill	5	—	15	2	8.1	1	16	4

THE ARMY.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
T. Sercombe Smith	22	3	93	4
Salter	19	3	89	3
Franklin	18.5	0	94	3
Lyne	2	0	13	0
Thurston	5	0	31	0

Our Portsmouth correspondent informs us of the death of Mr. J. M. Emanuel, at the age of 57, late of New Jersey, U.S.A. Mr. Emanuel was for some years a resident in Hongkong and was in the Union Dock Co., and afterwards a partner in the firm of Messrs. W. B. Spratt and Co. Wanchai, who built the Cosmopolitan Dock. Upon the present Dock Co. purchasing the property he went home to England via New York where he met his wife. Mr. Emanuel was a man of the greatest integrity, much esteemed and respected, and he leaves a widow, two daughters, and five sons to mourn his loss. Mr. Emanuel is a brother to Alderman A. Leon Emanuel, J.P., Major of Portsmouth, England, who in 1877 paid a visit to this colony, and also a brother to Mr. P. H. Emanuel, who was on the staff of this paper in 1875-1880.

FOOTBALL.

SHIELD COMPETITION.—SEMI-FINAL.

The first tie in the semi-final for the Shield was played on the ground of the Hongkong Football Club at Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon, the 9th inst., between H Company, R.W.F., and the 25th Company (Southern Division), R.G.A. The following were the players:—

Fusiliers:—Goal—Johnson; backs—Smart and Davis; half-backs—Roberts, Stafford, and Sweete; forwards—Edwards, Gelson, Shields, Dobbs, and Walters.

Artillery:—Goal—Lewis; backs—Gartland and French; half-backs—Wilkie, Letten, and Spence; forwards—Banyard, Chapman, Cooper, Hare, and Mullis.

The Fusiliers kicked off facing a strong sun. Centre-play followed, the ball being eventually sent out of boundary by Stafford, the Fusiliers' centre-half. The throw in gave the Artillery a chance to open the scoring, but a weak shot from Hare who got the pass, failed utterly to have that effect. Smart, playing right back for the Fusiliers, put in some pretty head work and frequently stopped several nasty rushes by the Artillery forwards, who at the start played an attacking game. Shields turned the game, however, and made a splendid break, securing the ball in his own territory and dribbling it right up to within fifteen yards of Lewis. Tackled by the backs, he momentarily lost the ball, but regained it soon afterwards from a pass and shot. He lifted the ball too high, however, and the try went wide. A few minutes later Dobbs captured, also in Fusilier territory, and defeating all opposition, made a clean run up the field and shot, scoring easily. The Fusiliers were now showing better form than the Artillery, and indulged in some long passing that enabled them repeatedly to gather in dangerous proximity to the Artillery's goal. Two corners followed in succession, one for the Fusiliers and one for the Artillery. The former team, from their corner, had to be content with a bye, but the Artillery, from a well-placed kick, almost succeeded in equalising, one of their forwards heading the ball right into Johnson's hands. That custodian kicked away, but the Artillery, who were developing better form and combination, again captured and shot, this ball, like the first, dropping into Johnson's hands.

The Artillery certainly had rather hard luck in not equalising, the more so as a third attempt on their part to place themselves on equality with the Fusiliers, failed through one of the forwards not being able to "screw" sufficiently soon to shoot, when the ball lay just at the corner of the Fusiliers' goal. Continuing, the Artillery disregarded the referee's whistle and scored—the goal, of course, being disallowed. The right wing of the Fusiliers then took up the play, and worked their way into Artillery territory. The ball was sent in, but was going wide when Walters rushed in and planted the ball in the net, the second goal being scored just as the half-time whistle sounded. The result at the interval was thus 2-0 in favour of the Fusiliers.

Crossing over, the Artillery were stopped in centre by Shields, who, capturing the ball and passing judiciously, carried the field right up to Gartland and French, the Artillery's backs. The former appeared to be at sea, and the Fusiliers were only prevented from adding a third goal to their score by the referee giving a foul against them on the ground of one of their players being off-side. The free kick awarded them gave the Artillery a chance to transfer play to the other end of the field, and this they did, but, even with the advantage of a second free kick a matter of yards only from the Fusiliers' goal, the foul being given for an illegal charge, they were not successful in reducing their minority. The Artillery, however, still pressed, and attacked once more at close quarters. They gave away an opening, however, by foul play, Smart took the free kick, and centred. Shields captured, and getting past French and Gartland, who lay too far up, had an absolutely clear field before him. Never was such an opening, but Shields with everything in his favour, fluked the ball, sending it wide by yards. Lewis a few minutes later banged an easy shot from Edwards, and Gelson would assuredly have

put in a third goal had not. Gartland stepped in just in the nick of time and sent the ball well out. Another futile visit was then paid by the Artillery to Fusilier territory, their forwards giving out when they reached Smart and Davis. The game, which was slow towards the finish, though all in the Fusiliers' favour, was won by that team by two goals to nil.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

On Saturday, the 9th inst., fifteen yachts came forth to have a try for the two cases of champagne which had been presented by Mr. E. W. Mitchell as first and second prizes. The course was the same as the Naval Cup, viz.: Channel Rocks, Myers Buoy, and the markboat on the line twice round. The following were the starters and handicaps:—

Alannah	... ..	allows.
Bonito	... ..	1 min.
Iris	... ..	2 min., 30 sec.
Maid Marian	... ..	
Erica	... ..	
Gloria	... ..	
Doreen	... ..	4 min., 30 secs.
Chanticleer	... ..	
Meteor	... ..	
Active	... ..	6 min.
Dart	... ..	
Payne	... ..	9 min.
Ladybird	... ..	
Sayonara	... ..	19 min.
Gazelle	... ..	22 min.

Alannah was steered by Mr. Denison in the absence of her owner, who felt that his duty as a volunteer must come before his pleasure as a yachtsman, while Chanticleer was in charge of Captain Brown, of the Central India Horse, as Mr. Thornhill had gone out with the force intended to attack Kowloon on the following Monday. Alannah had slightly the best of a very pretty start, Bonito losing a bit through the vagaries of the Dart, who was manœuvring on the wrong side of the line and started from that side on Bonito's weather side. It was a beat out to Channel Rocks in a nice light breeze, and Alannah quickly drew out a slight lead, Meteor and Bonito being next, with Chanticleer and Iris close behind. All the leaders stood on far too long towards North Point, as when they came about on the star board tack they were able to lie up far above the Channel Rocks, Alannah having gone furthest wrong, Bonito and Meteor being nearly as bad. Channel Rocks were rounded by Alannah with a lead about a minute on Iris, who was a length or so ahead of Chanticleer and Bonito, the latter getting the best of the turn and drawing out just clear ahead. On the run down to Myers Buoy Alannah picked up a lot of weeds on her rudder and had to haul up into the wind to get them off. The mark was first rounded by Iris, Bonito, Chanticleer near together, with the remainder of the fleet close up. The leaders soon ran into a calm, and the mark boat at the line was rounded by Alannah first, Iris second, and the remainder all close together. The wind now was very light and Alannah and Iris worked towards Blackheads, Erica, Payne and Sayonara going into the man-of-war anchorage, where they suddenly got a strong southerly wind for about ten minutes, which took them nearly up to Myers Buoy, where they met the east wind again and found themselves ahead of all the rest. The beat up to Channel Rocks was uneventful, Alannah and Iris working up to first and second, but the leader being only three minutes ahead of Sayonara it was a foregone conclusion which way the prize would go. They strung out very slightly in the reach and ran home, and a very fluky run ended as below:—

	Hrs.	min.	sec.
Alannah	4	38	17
Iris	4	39	36
Erica	4	41	13
Meteor	4	41	41
Chanticleer	4	42	2
Payne	4	42	59 (2nd Prize)
Sayonara	4	43	29 (1st Prize)
Doreen	4	44	59
Maid Marian	4	45	—
Bonito	4	46	48

The remainder gave up.

THE NINTH CLUB RACE.

The Ninth Club Race was sailed on Sunday, the 10th, the course being from Public Pier, Kowloon, round the North Fairway Buoy and a markboat at Lyeemoon, distance 12 miles. The wind was very light, almost due west, and a very strong ebb tide was running all the afternoon.

At the starting gun Bonito was first across the line, being a few yards to windward of Iris, Alannah, contrary to custom, being almost the last to get away. Bonito at once shot away and made a long leg out towards Stonecutters, sailing wonderfully fast in the light air although not holding so good a wind as the others. Helped by meeting the freshening breeze and sailing in slacker water she was about six minutes ahead of Iris at the buoy, the latter being closely attended by Chanticleer and Alannah. It was a very hot and tedious run to Lyeemoon, but with the assistance of the tide most of the journey was accomplished in fair time. About a quarter of a mile short of Lyeemoon mark the west wind died out altogether, but Bonito, with the assistance of the tide and a breath from the east, got round the mark, but could get no nearer home for a quarter of an hour. Suddenly the wind came again, bringing up all the second class boats, and the whole lot came tearing down to the mark boat in a bunch. Here there was considerable crowding, which ended in Alannah and Iris, followed by a few more, standing off to the North Shore, while Bonito (who only got the wind when the others were rounding) led another division towards Quarry Bay. It was soon evident that the latter was the correct course and a pretty race home ensued, Bonito gradually drawing out from Chanticleer, who was also leaving Erica and Doreen. Up to the Oil Works Pier they crept along the shore in short tacks and then a long leg towards the Dock. Here Bonito went too far into the bay and had to sail large to get outside the rocks, and at Blackhead's Chanticleer had closed up to within a few yards; but again Bonito began to creep away, although very slowly, for Chanticleer, beautifully handled by Captain Brown, was going as she used to in the old days, and the light air was just what she liked. Erica and Doreen were having a close race for third place, but Erica came too far out into the tide way, and so although only a few yards behind was beaten by over seven minutes. The Meteor was third boat in, having beaten nearly all the first class boats on the beat back from Lyeemoon, and of course scored an easy win. Subjoined are the official times at the finish and the marks up to date, which show the first class championship in a most interesting state as between Alannah and Bonito:—

FIRST CLASS.					
	Hrs.	min.	sec.	Marks.	Total to date.
Bonito	4	34	1	10	48
Chanticleer	4	35	—	4	4
Doreen	4	45	15	1	1
Erica	4	52	31	—	15
Gloria	4	58	20	—	1
Iris	5	7	12	—	23
Alannah	5	26	16	—	40
Maid Marian (did not start)	...	...	...	...	3
SECOND CLASS.					
Meteor	4	37	6	10	56
Payne	5	20	15	4	31
Dart	5	26	52	1	21
Ladybird	5	30	7	—	2
Sayonara	did not start				14
Gazelle	...				10
Sybil	...	...	...	...	1

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"A" MACHINE GUN CO.

The twelfth and final shoot of the present series took place at Kowloon on the 10th inst., when Gunner H. Hursthouse scored his second win on both cups. Sergeant-Major Lammert wins the No. 1 Cup with 4 wins, also Captain Sanders's cup for best aggregate in any three shoots, and Bomb. Wodehouse and Gunners Cox, E. wards and Hursthouse tie for the No. 2 Cup with two wins each.

Mr. James W. Davidson, U.S. Consul at Tamsui, left Formosa for America on the 10th inst. on leave of absence.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP—SILVER MEDAL FOR MARCH.

The following were the scores handed in for the above competition.

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	83	4	79
Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart	96	16	80
Mr. C. Palmer	90	19	81
Mr. H. W. Robertson	93	10	83
Mr. E. F. Mackay	90	5	85
Mr. E. J. Grist	93	8	85
Lieut. S. V. Farie, R.N.	98	12	86

(13 entries).

POOL.

Lt. A. J. M. Grieve, R.N.	81	2	79
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	83	4	79
Lieut. S. V. Farie, R.N.	93	12	81
Lieut. J. A. Moreton, R.N.	96	14	82
Mr. E. J. Grist	93	8	85

(15 entries).

This completes the series of monthly competitions for the cup, and the winners, of whom nine are at present in the colony, will have to play off at as early a date as possible to secure final possession of Mr. Ram's handsome presentation.

BRIGANDAGE AROUND TIENTSIN.

The country around Tientsin, writes the P. and T. Times, is becoming increasingly disturbed, several foreigners have been done to death within a short distance of here. In one instance an American saloon-keeper joined some disreputable Chinese in an attempt to extort money from a certain village, and brought upon himself a terrible fate. The Chinese seized him and cut off ears, nose, tongue, etc., and finally hacked him to pieces. In another instance three Germans who went into the country to purchase cattle, taking with them a large sum of money, were attacked and killed, the Chinese then escaping and bringing with them the Settlements. A German father and son went out and burnt down a village, killing a number of the Boxers. We also hear that two Indian soldiers went out from Tungchow on a raid, and were attacked, one being killed and the other rescued by Italian outposts. Of course in cases where men break bounds and go on the pillage one cannot marvel at tragic results. But we decline to believe that the trouble upon villages round by certain forces in order to replenish their commissariat supplies, is altogether responsible for the dangerous state of the country. At times the Chinese are undoubtedly provoked; but the pillaging and cruel oppression going on themselves, even in the City, prove that the country is infested with disbanded soldiers and Boxers who have come to the end of their resources, and are now carrying on a desperate and high-handed game of murder and plunder as a livelihood.

Last month at the San Francisco Board of Trade rooms a meeting was held in connection with the establishment of a steamship line between San Francisco and the Philippines. Some time ago the San Francisco Board of Trade, which embraces in its membership nearly all the wholesale houses of the city, addressed a communication to the Pacific Steamship Company officials, asking what might be arranged to give the connection with Manila that was desired. It was forth that there was a direct line from Manila to Tacoma, so that the connection could not be done to give San Francisco a chance with its competitors. It was at that time that a connection with Manila might be of some avail. Last month the merchants decided not to wait for the Pacific Mail Co.'s answer, and sent for a meeting of committees representing the Manufacturers and Producers' Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the San Francisco Board of Trade, the Ship Owners' Association and the Merchants' and Produce Association to discuss the situation and to take such action as should be deemed advisable.

On Thursday evening, the 14th ult., soon after darkness had set in, the Harbour of Bombay was the scene of one of the most exciting incidents which have taken place in its history, and which resulted in the sinking of the German East African Company's passenger steamer *Setos*. She had collided with the s.s. *Daghestan*, who at the time of the accident was carrying 171 passengers, principally natives, but owing to the skill and coolness displayed by the officers on board no lives were lost, though for a time, in spite of the nearness of the shore, all but those actually working the vessel were in a state almost of panic. The *Setos* had come from Zanzibar and the *Daghestan* was proceeding on her voyage to Antwerp with a general cargo, when they struck just off the Apollo Bunder, the stem of the latter taking the *Setos* amidships on the starboard side, carrying away all the upper structure and eventually making a large hole below the water line. In three minutes all her fires were flooded. The stampede for the boats was prevented and with the assistance of the boats of the *Daghestan*, and others from the shore the women and children were first safely landed. The remainder of the passengers soon followed, and ultimately even the mails and baggage were brought ashore. The *Daghestan* is a vessel chartered by the British India Company, and commanded by Captain Littlehales. She was obliged to return to the harbour with her bows severely damaged on the starboard side and the forepeak full of water. The *Setos* meanwhile began to settle down, and at 3 o'clock, when all hands had left, sank in about 30 feet of water. Until 2 o'clock efforts were made to keep her afloat, but these were found to be futile. She has now heeled over, and lies near the middle ground on her side, her bridge and portions of her upper structure just showing at low tide.—*Times of India*.

HONGKONG.

— — —
A Chinese diver was accidentally killed whilst at work in the Hope Dock, Aberdeen, on Friday, the 8th inst.

Taking Western Street as a dividing line, the Western part of the Colony has been put out of bounds for the troops of the garrison.

On the 14th inst. the British hospital-ship *Carthage* arrived from Calcutta, the French gunboat *Albatros* from Hoihow, and the U.S. transport *Buffalo* from Manila, while the U.S. transport *Robert* left for the last port.

H. M. S. *Goodlapper*, which sank in the Harbour on the morning of the November typhoon, and again after having been raised, has now been fully repaired, and made a very successful start on Monday morning.

What is supposed to be a deliberate case of suicide occurred at Victoria Barracks early in the 8th inst., when Gunner Webster, 8th (Comdant) (Southern Division), Royal Garrison Artillery, jumped from a verandah to the ground, a distance of about thirty feet, and sustained injuries from which he died a few minutes later. Webster had been suffering from general debility.

The return on stamp revenue during the months of February 1900 and 1901 shows that the total increase for February 1901 was \$9,681.08. The principal items of increase were: Postage on Letters or Assignment, \$8,019.00; Postage on Stamp, \$346.42; Mortgage, \$724.80; Bank of Exchange, \$676.86. The main decreases were: C. Settlement, \$1,350.00; Transfer of Stamp, \$1,148.94; Bank note duty, \$346.77; Policy of Insurance, \$534.45.

The Registrar of Births during the month ended 31st January reported that to a grand total of 361 the European and Foreign community contributed 18, Army 7, Navy 2), and Chinese community 369. Chest affections accounted for 11 victims, and various fevers for 20, of whom 11 succumbed to malaria and 6 to dysentery. The death rates in the principal registration districts are as follows:—British community (Civil) 23.1 per 1,000, Chinese community, Victoria, Land 17.4, and Navy 16.9, Chinese community, whole colony, Land and Boat 16.9, Land and Boat 16.4.

A soldier who was watching the football game on Saturday, the 9th inst., at the Happy Valley was overcome by the heat, and had to be removed to hospital.

A case of suicide is reported from Kennedytown on Wednesday, when a foreman coolie divested himself of his clothing and jumped into the harbour. The body has not yet been recovered.

A special Government notification issued on Thursday stated: The following telegram has been received from the Government of Rangoon, and is published for general information:—
"Hongkong declared infected. Inform shipping firms. Letter follows."

Nearly 1,200 students are now in daily attendance at Queen's College. This is a record, and speaks volumes for the name this institution has among all classes of this cosmopolitan community. On the 5th inst., the opening day of the Spring term, over 150 applicants for entry had to be sent away, there being absolutely no room for them.

The flashes which we have seen nightly over the Island this week were produced by H.M.S.S. *Centurion* and *Terrible* "talking" to one another by flashing searchlights, the *Terrible* being in Taitam Bay and the *Centurion* in the Harbour. The flashes were emitted by a sort of venetian blind arrangement, and the ordinary Morse code of telegraphy was used.

The Commandant's parade in connection with the Hongkong Volunteer Corps was held on the Polo Ground, Causeway Bay, on Saturday, the 9th inst, the parade being by way of rehearsal for the annual inspection by H. E. the General Officer Commanding. The Commandant expressed himself satisfied with the manner in which the men acquitted themselves, and impressed upon them the importance of all members of the Corps attending the inspection.

The following returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 28th February are certified by the managers of the respective Banks:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China...\$	3,049,830	\$1,700,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	10,169,377	5,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited	450,000	150,000
Total,	\$13,669,207	6,850,000

The members of the Red Dragon Lodge No. 65 held a tea and social evening on Tuesday, the 12th inst., in the Sailors' and Soldiers' Home, Arsenal Street, on account of several of their members leaving for the North of China. The concert was held after the ordinary meeting. The chair was taken by Bro. Darley, U.S.N., and the following programme was gone through with great success:—Songs by Bros. Brittain, Chiles, Kelsall, Hewish, Connor, Lloyd, and Prosser; Readings by Bros. Young, Barley, Tweedle, Taylor, and Marston. Bro. Gallen, U.S.N., and Bro. Maddocks gave very interesting addresses, in which they wished all a "God speed" and hoped they would return as staunch teetotallers. Bro. Little brought one of the finest concerts that has ever been held in the Temperance cause to a close by an Organ Recital, the "Hallelujah Chorus," after which the members remaining formed a circle round their comrades, and sang as a parting hymn "God be with you till we meet again."

An excellent opportunity will be presented to curio-buyers to-day, when at 2 p.m. Mr. George Lammert will sell by public auction a magnificent collection of Chinese curios. We have had the opportunity of inspecting the curios, which are now on view, and as a collection it is one of the best to be put up for auction for many years past. As some of the articles bear marks, and are fashioned in a manner known to the initiated to be for Imperial use alone, it is possible that many of the curios formed part of the loot taken from the palace at Peking. The collection is a large and varied one, and comprises embroidered cloths and clothes, all kind of vases, carved Buddhas, drinking vessels, pipes, incense-burners, screens, China plates, samshu and tea cups, etc. We understand the articles will be sold without reserve and a good attendance of buyers will no doubt be present.

Mr. S. R. Moore has been appointed **Demarcation Officer** to the **Land Court**.

Mr. C. McI. Messer has been appointed Acting Colonial Treasurer and Collector of Revenue during the absence on leave of the Hon. A. M. Thomson.

The King's Proclamation, continuing in their posts those holding any office at the demise of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, is published in the *Gazette*.

Dr. J. H. Swan has been appointed Acting Health Officer, and Dr. R. Gibson, Deputy Health Officer of the Port during the absence on leave of Dr. G. P. Jordan.

H.M.S. *Argonaut* left on the 12th inst. for Wosung. Later the British gunboat *Bramble* left for Amoy and the British storeship *Humber* for Canton.

Among the names of those leaving for England by the *Chinu* on the 12th inst. were those of Messrs. James McKie, J. H. Lewis, and R. D. Ormsby.

The following have been appointed temporary Inspectors of Nuisances:—Messrs. W. Bond, H. McDonald, G. Powell, H. Cook, W. Rogers, B. Lowe, G. Flack, and H. Reynolds.

M. Broeze, the Dutch Consul-General, informs us that all ships arriving from Hongkong in the ports of Netherlands-India are now subject to quarantine regulations on account of small-pox.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week shows that the former institution was visited by 458 non-Chinese and 138 Chinese, the latter by 175 non-Chinese and 2,836 Chinese.

The medical representative in Hongkong of the United States Government is, we understand, advising the vaccination of all crews and passengers on board Pacific-bound vessels in view of the recent cases of small-pox here.

An enquiry will be held on Tuesday morning, 19th inst., at the Magistracy, into the circumstances attending the deaths of Brodie and Johnson, the two divers who lost their lives through the sudden overturning for the second time of the dredger *Canton River* on the afternoon of the 2nd inst.

A circular despatch from Mr. Chamberlain is published in the *Gazette*, enclosing a copy of a telegram from Lord Pauncefoot with reference to the Philippines Customs Tariff. Therein it is stated that Mr. Hay has made an offer to have any suggestions laid before the U. S. Commission which may be made in the interest of British trade.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Russian Admiralty has decided on an important reinforcement of the Russian war ships on the Pacific Station. The two new vessels which have just been built in the Finland dockyards are to be sent to Port Arthur.

A council return of military expenditure on the Garrison at Singapore last year shows that the Army Pay Department accounted for \$842,030 spent locally. The amount spent in England, so far as could be ascertained, was \$238,817, or £23,082.

An *Asahi* telegram from Chemulpo on the 27th ult. says that the Japanese lessee of Getsubito Island was demanding the evacuation of the island by the Korean inhabitants on or before the 15th March. He applied to the Korean Government to order the Koreans to leave the island, but the natives have been increasing in numbers instead of withdrawing, owing to the changeable attitude of the Korean Government.

The following items are from the P. & T. *Times* of the 2nd inst.:—A review of the French troops was held on the 27th ult. in the most unpleasant Tientsin weather.—The Port was virtually reopened and the first steamer had already arrived at the Bar, while some of the regular fleet were expected on the 2nd or 3rd.—While demolishing a temple in Peking some foreign soldiers, in order to facilitate the work, blew up the large hall with dynamite, two coolies and some soldiers being killed and wounded by the explosion. Four foreigners were found among the debris afterwards. Our contemporary regrets the departure of the Australian contingent, which was expected in about two weeks' time.

A further case of plague was reported at Singapore on the 6th inst., the victim being a Chinese coolie.

The Russian men-of-war *Poltava* and *Sevastopol* and the tug-boat *Port Arthur XIII* are on their way to China from Colombo.

Copenhagen advices state that Admiral Richelieu is about to resign his appointment as Admiral of the Siamese navy and return to Denmark.

The Rev. E. T. Williams, of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, Shanghai, has been appointed Interpreter to the U. S. Legation at Peking.

Mr. J. Goodnow, U.S. Consul-General at Shanghai, left San Francisco on the 19th ult. in the *Nippon Maru*, and is expected to arrive in Shanghai about the 16th inst.

The *Echo de Chine* states that it learns from Foochow that Chinese coolies have signed an agreement to go to Madagascar, for which they have been engaged by a French agency.

Two local snapshots from the camera of Mr. G. H. Evans, of the Hongkong Dockyard, appear in the *London Sketch* of 3rd January.

The accompanying letterpress says: "The brace of snapshots from Chinese waters show that not only is Jack ready at a moment's notice to resolve himself into the 'handy man' ashore, as Capt. Hedworth Lambton and his merry men did at Ladysmith, but that he is also prompt on occasion to perform such difficult tasks as the raising of H.M.S. *Sandpiper* and this dredger, which, sunk during the recent typhoon, were brought to the surface, and are afloat again thanks to British skill and indefatigable energy, which, let Lord Rosebery pull as long a face as he likes, are bound to keep old England in the very front rank of the nations." The unhappy accident of the 2nd inst. has caused our contemporary to err in one respect.

The Russian papers give chapter and verse for their claim to the Elliot and Blonde Islands, which were the subject of a special Delimitation Commission between Russian and Chinese officials, says the *L. & C. Express*. These have appeared in several forms in Russian and German papers. It would seem these acts consolidated the wording of the agreement for the lease of Port Arthur and Talienwan, which loosely stated "corresponding territory and waters." The *Novoye Vremya* states that, as a matter of fact, the two groups, which consist of nine and four islands respectively, have been administered by the Russian authorities since the handing over of the Kwantung Peninsula to Russia, in virtue of the Russo-Chinese Convention. This would seem to seal their fate, but with regard to the Miao-tao Islands there is, on the contrary, a special Russian convention with China, according to which the alienation or lease of the islands to any foreign Power is expressly prohibited, since the group commands the Gulf of Pe-chi-li. These islands are far more important internationally than the other two groups, as will be readily gleaned by looking at the map. Their possessions in strong hands would considerably affect the position in North China.

The news of Mr. J. F. Holliday's death, telegraphed out to Shanghai last week, is a sad surprise. Mr. Holliday was born in Macao 58 years ago, his father being a merchant before him, was taken home to England to be educated, and came back to Hongkong to the firm of Messrs. Holliday, Wise & Co. in 1864. He spent most of his time in Shanghai, whence he went home to join the head office of the firm at Manchester in 1889, but he and Mrs. Holliday paid a visit to Shanghai last year. Our contemporary, the *N. C. Daily News*, says of him: "Joe" Holliday, as he was affectionately called, was during the many years of his life in China one of the most popular men in the community, and he and his charming wife were prominent in Society and in every good and useful scheme. Like all the Hollidays, Joe was cut out by nature for a soldier, and he was a most efficient Commandant of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps. In fact, he took his share in most of the public duties and amusements of Shanghai. He served on the Municipal Council, he was Worshipful Master of the Northern Lodge of China, he was an active member of the Amateur Dramatic Club, and a keen sportsman. He was a hearty, genial, and trusty friend, as well as an able and thoroughly straightforward man of business.

The Siamese authorities have decided to introduce a paper currency of their own very shortly. At present the only notes in circulation there are those of the European banks which have branches in Bangkok.

Captain Chester, who brought out the U.S.S. *Kentucky*, was a passenger to San Francisco by the s.s. *China*. Captain Stockton, who has seen much active service at Santiago, succeeds Captain Chester in the command of the battle-ship.

At the meeting of the Singapore Municipal Council on the 27th ult. it was resolved, with regard to the proposed Municipal loan of a million dollars, that bonds of \$500 each be issued, the last day of July to be the final date for receiving applications, thus giving English investors an opportunity to invest.

The *N. C. Daily News* writes strongly on the subject of river conservancy at Shanghai. "It is no exaggeration" our contemporary remarks, "to say that the future of Shanghai as a great commercial centre—the New York of China as Hankow is to be the Chicago—depends on its remaining a seaport, and this depends on the conservation of a river which is silting up every day before our eyes. The width of the Huangpu between the Pootung Point and the Public Garden is to-day little more than half what it was forty years ago. This shrinkage of the river is going on from day to day and the Huangpu will become a canal like the Soochow Creek, which was once a wide river; Shanghai will become an inland town, and Bund lots will be worth something less than £60,000 an acre."

It is anticipated that a deputation from Penang will proceed to Singapore and present an address to Their Royal Highness the Duke and Duchess of York, when they arrive at the latter port.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	—	—
Amoy	578,504	489,347
Foochow	11,244,973	10,174,605
Canton	—	—
	11,823,480	10,663,952

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
Shanghai	—	—
Amoy	16,424,161	12,811,396
Foochow	11,308,831	9,351,272
	27,732,992	22,162,668

SILK.

CANTON, 2nd March.—Tsateles.—No settlements have been reported during the fortnight. Re-reels.—About 50 bales of Nos. 1 and 2 Re-reels have been sold at \$600 to \$580. Filatures.—Have been in good enquiry, but in consequence of the Chinese New Year Holidays, business was completely suspended for about eight days. Both New York and Lyons markets showing a firmer tone, the market, in sympathy, has advanced \$30 to \$40 per picul, purchases being confined mainly to one firm. Short-reels.—About 200 bales have been bought for New York, and prices show also an advance of about \$30 per picul. Waste.—Transactions have been small but prices are very firm, and dealers have obtained an advance of \$4 per picul. Appended are quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 4 months' sight, 2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Fcs. 2.58 per Dollar.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 15th March.—Still no arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 15th March.—The prices are further advancing, market being very brisk. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.45 to	\$8.50 pcl.
do. " 2, White.....	7.70 to	7.75 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.75 to	5.80 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.55 to	5.60 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.35 to	8.40 "
do. " 1, White.....	7.55 to	7.60 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ...	5.60 to	5.65 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.45 to	5.50 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.45 to	12.50 "
Shekloong "	11.65 to	11.70 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on the 16th Feb. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For London:—50 bales waste silk opt. Manchester. 50 bales waste silk opt. Goolie, 40 bales raw silk, 2 cases silks, 125 boxes bristles, 328 rolls mats and matting, 4 cases curios, 6 cases cigars, 2 cases cigars from Manila. For Lyons:—505 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—96 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Eridan* sailed on the 25th Feb. For Marseilles:—300 cases tea. For London:—1 case blackwoodware, 1 case preserves.

Per Imperial German Mail steamer *Sachsen*, sailed on the 20th February. For Aden:—1 box Silkpiecagoods. For New York:—160 boxes essential oil, 10 bales raw silk. For Antwerp:—100 rolls matting, 12 bales feathers, 1 case silk. For Amsterdam:—1 case camphorwoodboxes. For Rotterdam:—246 rolls matting. For Bremen:—63 rolls matting, 2 boxes bamboo baskets. For Hamburg:—63 rolls matting, 10 cases camphorwoodtrunks, 5 cases Amber, 4 boxes feathers, 1 case silk. For Hamburg/London:—200 slabs tin.

Per P. & O. steamer *Shanghai*, sailed on the 21st February. For Glasgow:—13 cases blackwoodware. For London:—1,368 rolls mats and matting, 4 cases silks, 3 cases curios, 1 case sorun, 1 case pictures, 6 cases camphorwoodtrunks, 43 cases blackwoodware, 22 cases canes, 4 cases cigars from Manila.

Per steamer *Alcinous*, sailed on the 22nd Feb. For London:—2,263 bales hemp, 100 bales waste silk, 1,450 bags gum, 688 rolls matting, 3 casks wood oil, 200 casks preserves, 109 cases preserves, 188 cases shell, 76 cases Chinaware, 35 cases blackwoodware, 20 cases cassia oil, 8 cases cantharides, 5 cases cigars, 18 pkgs. sundries. For Manchester:—1 case cigars, 1 case blackwoodware. For Hamburg:—3 cases shell.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 15th March.—Malwa.—Small business has transpired at about previous rates. Bengal.—During the early part of the period under review market ruled very dull and Patna receded to \$915. On the arrival of the *Kamsang* a rush was made for "high numbers" with the result that prices for these gradually advanced to \$932. At the close market is steady. We quote for "high numbers" \$922 and "low numbers" \$912. In Benares business was done at \$950/45.

Persian.—A fair quantity of inferior drug was taken for the Singapore market at \$380/400 per picul. In superior quality drug no business was done and quotations remain unchanged.

STOCK.

Patna.....	2,185
Benares.....	179
Malwa.....	740
Persian.....	2,685

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 15th March.—Small business at a decline of \$1 to \$1.10, closing very dull. Stock, about 5,000 bales.

Bombay,	21.00 to 22.00 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon, }	22.00 to 23.25
and Dacca,	24.00 to 24.50
Shanghai and Japanese, ...	24.00 to 24.50
Tungchow and Ningpo,	24.00 to 24.50
Sale: 300 bales.	

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, March 15th.—The market opened during the past fortnight, but has been greatly depressed throughout, owing to very unsatisfactory reports from the interior, where the yearly settlements of accounts appear not to have passed without considerable difficulty. Business here is practically at a standstill and only a few forced sales have to be noted at a decline of one to two Dollars per bale. Importers are becoming anxious and would submit to still further concession if any large quantity could be placed, but dealers having in view the state of the Bombay and Shanghai markets are under the impression that

much lower prices will prevail shortly and are keeping entirely aloof, and a temporary check is for the moment being experienced. Heavy arrivals have taken place during the interval, and with insignificant off-takes our stock shows a considerable increase on last figures and is getting unwieldy.

Local Manufacture.—The local Mill continues to run full time and prices are fairly steady, but the demand is very light and the position is weak.

Japanese Yarn.—A little better feeling has to be noticed in these threads, but business is again checked by absence of supplies, and the market closes firm on the basis of \$110 for Settau No. 20s.

Raw Cotton.—In sympathy with the manufactured article is particularly dull. Indian descriptions despite advances on your side are weaker and with the quieter feeling sellers are easier in their rates and more disposed to meet any demand. Sales reported are some 157 bales machine ginned Bengal at from \$22½ to \$20½, leaving a stock of about 6,500 bales on the market, deducting 2,000 bales recently exported to Japan. Chinese Cotton continues neglected, an old stock about 500 bales large and small. Quotations are \$19 to \$22½ Indian, \$18 to \$22 Rangoon, and \$22 to \$24½ China.

Exchange on India closes to-day at Rs. 149 for T/T and R; 149½ for Post. On Shanghai 72 and on Yokohama at 1½ per cent. discount.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ending 11th instant, viz.:

Indian.—Total sales 2,350 bales comprising 1,040 bales No. 10s., 25 bales No. 12s., 75 bales No. 16s., and 1,210 bales No. 20s., prices continuing unsteady and market closing weak. Estimated unsold stock about 28,000 bales.

Japanese.—Total sales 1,000 bales at Tls. 77 to 76 for No. 16s., and Tls. 79 to 81 for No. 20s., prices showing little or no change and market closing dull.

Local.—Total sales about 1,500 bales at Tls. 68 to 72 for No. 10s., Tls. 73 to 74 for No. 14s., and Tls. 75 to 78 for No. 16s., prices showing a decline of one to two Taels and market closing very unsteady.

COALS.

HONGKONG, 8th March.—Small sales of Japanese at quotations:—

Cardiff.....	\$29.00	sellers ex ship
Australian	\$14.00 to \$14.50	ex godown, nominal
Yubari Lump.....	\$11.00	ex godown, nominal
Milki Lump.....	\$10.	
Moji Lump.....	\$7.00 to \$9.50	ex ship, steady
Hongay double	10.50	ex godown
screened.....		
Hongay Lump.....	8.50	ex ship
Hongay Dust.....	5.50	"
Briquettes.....	14.50	ex godown

RICE.

HONGKONG, 15th March.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.70 to 2.75
" Round, Good quality.....	2.90 to 2.95
" Long.....	3.10 to 3.15
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	2.90 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1.....	3.30 to 3.35
" White.....	3.70 to 3.75
" Fine Cargo.....	4.00 to 4.05

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 15th March.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—**Bombay Yarn:** 50 bales No. 6 at \$75, 900 bales No. 10 at \$85.50 to \$89, 1,000 bales No. 12 at \$87.50 to \$94, 250 bales No. 16 at \$99 to \$101, 1,150 bales No. 20 at \$98 to \$110. **White Shirtings:** 5,000 pieces 0 at \$5.20, 500 pieces Gold Goose at \$5.05, 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$7.55, 100 pieces Elephant Head at \$1.70, 500 pieces 2 Fishes 400 at \$4.15, 500 pieces S. Q. at \$5.10, 250 pieces Gold Goose at \$5.05. **Drills:** 150 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$6.55. **Victoria Lawns:** 1,400 pieces Green Lion at \$1.12½, 6,000 pieces Brown Stag at \$0.74. **Mexicans:** 750 pieces 32 Men and Horse at \$2.30. **Black Velvet:** 120 pieces at \$0.22 per yard.

Metals:—**Iron Wire Nails:** 1,000 kegs at \$5.35 to arrive, 1,000 kegs at \$5.50 to arrive.

COTTON YARN—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$76.00 to \$109.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.....	2.15 to 2.25
7 lbs.....	2.40 to 2.55
8.4 lbs.....	2.90 to 3.60
9 to 10 lbs.....	3.70 to 4.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.....	2.60 to 2.80
58 to 60 ".....	3.25 to 4.05
64 to 66 ".....	4.30 to 5.55
Fine.....	5.20 to 7.90
Book-folds.....	4.40 to 6.30
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.78 to 1.60
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.....	1.75 to 1.90
7lbs. (32 ").....	2.00 to 2.25
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.....	1.95 to 2.20
7lbs. (32 ").....	2.85 to 3.70
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.).....	2.90 to 3.60
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to 16 lbs.....	4.25 to 7.10

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.....	1.55 to 5.00
Brocades—Dyed.....	— to —
	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted.....	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.....	0.22½ to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in.....	0.20 to 0.22½
	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk.....	0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.....	1.25 to 2.50
	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet.....	6.40 to 10.00
Assorted.....	6.50 to 10.10
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.50 to 32.00

METALS—

	per picul
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } Assorted }	8.00 to 20.00
Orleans—Plain.....	8.50 to 10.00
	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.....	4.00 to 18.00
Iron—Nail Rod.....	4.20 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.).....	4.20 to —
Swedish Bar.....	7.50 to —
Small Round Rod.....	4.50 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.....	5.50 to —
Wire 15/25.....	8.00 to —
Old Wire Rope.....	2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop.....	9.25 to —
Australian.....	9.00 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz.....	41.50 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.....	41.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.....	41.00 to —
New Chops 14/20 oz.....	— to —
Composition Nails.....	63.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	43.00 to —
Tin.....	69.00 to —
	per box.
Tin-Plates.....	6.80 to —
	per cwt. case
Steel ½ to ¾.....	5.50 to —

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Bengal (str.), Idomeneus (str.), Agamemnon (str.), Deucalion (str.), Stentor (str.), Banca (str.), Bingo Maru (str.).

FOR LIVERPOOL.—Patroclus (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—Banca (str.), Bingo Maru (str.), Annam (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Freiburg (str.), Bayern (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Bamberg (str.), Sibiria (str.), Freiburg (str.), Marburg (str.), Savoia (str.).

FOR HAVRE, COPENHAGEN, AND BALTIC PORTS.—Annam (str.).

FOR TRIESTE.—China (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Queen Adelaide (str.), Tosa Maru (str.), Tartar (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.), Tartar (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Doric (str.), Nippon Maru (str.), City of Peking (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—Albenga (str.), Gymeric (str.).

FOR SAN DIEGO.—Strathgyle (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.—Catherine Apcar (str.).

FOR STRAITS, COLOMBO, AND BOMBAY.—Masa-gora (str.).

FOR GERMAN COLONIAL AND AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Nucunung (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Taiwan (str.), Airlie (str.), Rosetta Maru (str.).

VERNON & SMYTH'S SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 15th March.—A moderate business has been transacted in most stocks during the past week, but rates have in many cases ruled somewhat erratic. At the close there is, however, a rather firmer tone apparent, with an inclination to improvement in some of the principal lines.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been negotiated in fair lines at 352 per cent. and 353 per cent. premium for cash, and at 356 per cent. premium for the end of the month, the market closing with buyers for cash at 353 per cent. premium. The London rate has advanced to £59 15s 0d. Nationals are in request at \$25½ ex dividend.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have improved their position and have buyers at \$260. Yangtzes have been placed at \$118. Other stocks under this head are unchanged at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Sales of Hongkong have been effected at \$291, the market closing with further sellers at this rate. China Fires are weak, with sellers at \$76.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have further declined to \$33½, at which there are sellers. A small sale at this figure is reported locally. Indo-Chinas after sales at \$116 rose rapidly to \$118, at which a fair business was done, but at the close are rather weaker, with a few small sellers at \$117½. On time an extensive business has been done for April at \$120. Douglasses are once more in request, and sales have been effected at \$48 and \$48½, the market closing with further buyers at the latter rate. Star Ferries are wanted at \$21 and \$7 respectively for the old and new shares. China Manilas have sellers at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been placed at \$143, but latterly the market has weakened considerably, and shares can now be had at \$140. Luzons have declined to \$39, at which there are sellers.

MINING.—Rauhs continued in demand for the first few days of the period under review and sales at various rates up to \$43 were effected. A weaker tone has since set in, however, and there are sellers now at this rate. In other stocks under this head there is no material change to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been sold in fair lines at various rates up to 660 per cent. premium for cash and the end of the month, and there is still a demand for the stock at this rate. On time, shares are wanted at equivalent rates. Kowloon Wharves have been placed at \$92½ ex dividend, and further shares are obtainable at this figure. Wanchais are unchanged with buyers at \$63. New Amoy Docks have sellers at \$24.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed for cash at \$195 and \$196 and there are further buyers at the latter rate. For the end of the month shares are obtainable at \$197. Hongkong Hotels have improved their position to \$125, at which small parcels are still to be had. Humphreys Estates have been taken off the market in large lines at \$12½, at which further shares are obtainable. West Points have been sold and have sellers at \$49.

COTTON MILLS.—The only change to report is in Ewoa, for which Tls. 47½ is now offered.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements have continued in demand, and sales have been effected at \$20. For April a sale is reported at \$20½. Watsons have buyers at \$16. Hongkong and China Gas Co. are wanted at \$130. Ropes have been placed at \$157½ ex div., and further shares might be had at this rate. Steam Water Boats have improved to \$7, at which sales have been made. Dairy Farms are wanted at \$8. Electrics have been placed and have further sellers at \$13 and \$7 respectively for the old and new shares. Providents have been placed in fair lots at \$9½, but have further sellers at this figure. Tramways continue in request at \$200, at which a few shares have been placed.

MEMOS.—China Sugar Refining Co., Limited, and Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Limited, ordinary yearly meetings on the 27th instant. Watkins, Limited, ordinary yearly meeting on the 19th instant, books closed on the 14th.

China and Manila Steamship Co., Limited, ordinary general meeting on the 23rd instant. Transfer books of the latter will be closed from the 18th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	353 p. ct. prem. = \$566½, buyers L'don, £59.15s.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$25½, ex div., buys
B. Shares	£8	\$25½, ex div., buys
Foun. Shares	£1	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20.
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$6½, sales & sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$140, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra, Limited	\$500	\$1,500, buyers
La Commercial, Ltd.	\$500	\$900
Hensiana, Limited	\$100	\$100, sales
La Favorita, Ltd.	\$500	\$700, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 47½, buyers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 60.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 325.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
Hongkong	\$100	\$13, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$8, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$20, sales & sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$130, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$13, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$7, sellers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$7, sales
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$125, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$160, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$92½, ex d., sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$157½, ex div., sales
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$60 p. ct. prem. = \$950.
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$150, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$76.
China Traders'	\$25	\$55, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$291, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 180, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$1.
Union	\$50	\$280, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$118, sales
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$196, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12½, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$27.
West Point Building	\$50	\$49, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$39, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$315, sellers
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	\$3	nominal.
Do. Preference	\$1	40 cents
Jebebu	\$5	\$5.
Queen's Miner, Ltd.	25c.	10 cents.
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$24, sellers
Do. B.	\$4½	\$14, sellers
Punjom	\$9	\$4.60, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.20.
Raubs	18	\$43, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$24, sellers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$76, ex div.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$69, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	\$20	\$40, sellers
China Ordinary	£10	£12, buyers
Do.	£5	£7, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$48½, buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$33½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$117½, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	nominal
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£3. 1s. sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$21, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$8½.
Do.	\$10	\$20.
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37½	\$63, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$12, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10, buyers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$5, sales

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 15th March.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.50½
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.56
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.03½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	48½
Credits, 60 days' sight	49½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	149
Bank, on demand	149½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	149
Bank, on demand	149½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	73
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	1½ p.c. pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	1½ p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	119½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	2½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	6½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	9.93
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	52.25
BAR SILVER per oz.	28½

TONNAGE.

Hongkong, 15th March.—Freights have shown a little more activity during the period under review. Saigon to Hongkong, 19 to 20 cents per picul is offered for prompt loading; to one port Philippines, 32 cents per picul; to one port Java, 37 cents per picul. Bangkok to this, 32 and 27 cents per picul has been paid and more tonnage is wanted at this rate. Coal freights are firm. Moji to Hongkong, \$2.60; to Singapore, \$2.75; to Manila, \$2.50 per ton. Newchwang to Canton, no enquiry; to Amoy, 43 cents per picul.

The following are the settlements:—

Benlomond—British steamer, 1,752 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.60 per ton.
Mara Kolb—German steamer, 1,719 tons, Moji to Manila, \$1.50 per ton.
Picciola—German steamer, 875 tons, Amoy to Newchwang and Amoy, 58 cents per picul.
Nanyang—German steamer, 1,000 tons, Chefoo to Amoy, 34 cents per picul.
Taksang—British steamer, 977 tons, hence to Bangkok and back, 35 and 40 cents per picul.
Amara—British steamer, 1,563 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 27 and 32 cents per picul.
Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, two trips Bangkok to Hongkong, 27½ and 32 cents per picul.
Deuteros—German steamer, 1,071 tons, Saigon to two ports north coast Java, 40 cents per picul.
Wineland—Danish steamer, 1,668 tons, Saigon to Java, 39 cents per picul.
Hansa—British steamer, 1,201 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 38 cents per picul.
Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Saigon to Java (38,000 piculs), 38 cents per picul.
Dunav—Austrian steamer, 1,004 tons, Saigon to Java (33,000 piculs), 37 cents per picul.
Tetartos—German steamer, 1,812 tons, Saigon to Java (40,000 piculs), 36 cents per picul.
Taicheong—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 36 cents per picul.
Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.
Charles Rogier—Belgian steamer, 1,556 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.
Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.
Tailce—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.
Deuteros—German steamer, 1,001 tons, five ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 40 cents per picul.
Tsintau—German steamer, 1,002 tons, monthly, 2 months, \$9,000 per month.
Mara Kolb—German steamer, 1,710 tons, monthly, 6/3 months, \$13,000 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

March—	
ARRIVALS.	
8, Bamberg, German str., from Hamburg.	
8, Hoihad, French str., from Pakhoi.	
8, Taksang, British str., from Bangkok.	
9, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.	
9, Doric, British str., from San Francisco.	
9, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.	
9, Bisagno, Italian str., from Singapore.	
9, Vipere, French str., from Hsihow.	
9, Carthage, British hospital ship, from Calcutta.	
9, Charterhouse, British str., from Straits.	
9, Chwnshan, British str., from Iloilo.	
9, Taichow, German str., from Bangkok.	
9, Buffalo, U.S. transport, from Manila.	
10, Agamemnon, British str., from Liverpool.	
10, Amara, British str., from Singapore.	
10, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.	
10, Fushun, British str., from Shanghai.	
10, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.	
10, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.	
10, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.	
10, P. C. C. Klao, British str., from Bangkok.	
10, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.	
10, Progress, German str., from Saigon.	
10, Taiynan, British str., from Melbourne.	
10, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.	
10, Tonkin, French str., from Shanghai.	
10, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.	
10, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., from Shanghai.	
11, Ocean, British battleship, from Malta.	
11, Clam, British str., from Singapore.	
11, Pakhoi, British str., from Wuhu.	
11, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.	
11, Loyal, German str., from Bangkok.	
12, H. H. Meier, Ger. trspt., from Taingtau.	
12, Australian, British str., from Australia.	
12, C. Apear, British str., from Calcutta.	
12, Ichang, British str., from Chinkiang.	
12, Milos, German str., from Portland.	
12, Siam, German str., from Bangkok.	
13, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Marseilles.	
13, Thales, British str., from Swatow.	
13, Takow, Japanese cruiser, from Amoy.	
13, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.	
13, Hailong, British str., from Haiphong.	
13, Holstatia, German str., from Kiauchow.	
13, Hunan, British str., from Chinkiang.	
13, Toonan, American str., from Shanghai.	
13, Pathan, British str., from Manila.	
13, Patroclus, British str., from Moji.	
13, Taifu, German str., from Bangkok.	
13, Tritos, German str., from Saigon.	
14, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.	
14, Diamante, British str., from Manila.	
14, Freiburg, German str., from Moji.	
14, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.	
14, Fausang, British str., from Moji.	
14, Kwangse, British str., from Wuhu.	
14, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.	
14, Seong Le ng, British str., from Straits.	
14, Bengal, British str., from Shanghai.	
14, Radnorshire, British str., from London.	
14, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.	
15, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.	
15, Tantalus, British str., from Liverpool.	
15, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.	
15, Fushun, British str., from Canton.	
15, Lizard, British gunboat, from Canton.	
15, Chusan, British str., from Bombay.	
15, Elsa, German str., from Hongay.	
15, Victoria, Swedish str., from Iloilo.	
15, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.	
15, Dr. H. J. Kier, Norw. str., from Samarang.	
March—	
DEPARTURES.	
8, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.	
8, Dunav, Austrian str., for Saigon.	
9, Egbert, American transport, for Manila.	
9, Sandakan, German str., for Bangkok.	
9, Babalsberg, German str., for Shanghai.	
9, Nanyang, German str., for Chefoo.	
9, Aristeo, Austrian str., for Moji.	
9, Thales, British str., for Swatow.	
9, Yorihome Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.	
9, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.	
9, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.	
9, Charterhouse, British str., for Saigon.	
9, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.	
10, Maiduru Maru, Jap. str., for Tamsui.	
10, Tategami Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.	
10, Hue, French str., for Hoihow.	
10, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.	
10, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.	
10, Charterhouse, British str., for Amoy.	

10, A. Macleod, British str., for Iloilo.
 10, Stuttgart, German str., for Shanghai.
 10, Nankin, British str., for Kobe.
 10, St. Jerome, British str., for Newcastle.
 11, Tonkin, French str., for Europe.
 11, Fushun, British str., for Canton.
 11, Lyceon, German str., for Canton.
 11, Terrible, British cruiser, for practice.
 11, Perla, British str., for Manila.
 12, Argonaut, H.M. battleship, for Woosung.
 12, China, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 12, Adria, German str., for Tsingtau.
 12, Shantung, British str., for Hongay.
 12, Tailee, German s.r., for Saigon.
 12, S. Rickmers, British str., for Foochow.
 12, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 12, Hsieh Ho, German str., for Shanghai.
 12, Esang, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Denteros, German str., for Saigon.
 12, Bamberg, German str., for Yokohama.
 12, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Kelvindale, British str., for Akyab.
 12, Daphne, German str., for Nagasaki.
 12, Hating, French str., for Haiphong.
 12, Hikusan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 12, Kumsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 12, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.
 12, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 12, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.
 12, Humber, British storeship, for Canton.
 12, Bramble, British gunboat, for Amoy.
 13, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 13, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 13, Mara Kolb, German str., for Nagasaki.
 13, Progress, German str., for Touron.
 13, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 13, Agamemnon, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Clam, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Benclutha, British str., for Shanghai.
 13, Phra C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.
 13, Ichang, British str., for Canton.
 13, Hunan, British str., for Canton.
 13, Toonan, American str., for Canton.
 13, Ernest Simons, French str., for Shanghai.
 13, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 13, H. H. Meier, German trspt., for Colombo.
 14, Holstia, German str., for Bangkok.
 14, Phranang, German str., for Hoihow.
 14, Bisagno, Italian str., for Bombay.
 14, Carthage, Brit. hospital ship, for Shanghai.
 14, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 14, Vimeira, British bark, for Astoria.
 14, Taksang, British str., for Bangkok.
 14, Kwangse, British str., for Canton.
 14, Bealmond, British str., for Yokohama.
 14, Avalanche, French torpedo-boat, for Macao.
 15, Vipere, French gunboat, for Canton.
 15, Esmeralda, British schr., for Guam.
 15, Chwnshan, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Australian, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Ratho, British str., for Diamond Island.
 15, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Chingtu, British str., for Taku.
 15, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 15, Buffalo, U.S. transport, for Shanghai.
 15, Staint Paul, Amr. ship, for Newcastle.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Senor Don Jose Portusach.

Per *Stuttgart*, from Bremen, Mr. B. M. Jenkins and family, Messrs. E. Faber, W. Chatham, Ed. Schlee, Weir, T. Tsuno, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Riege, Messrs. Adolf Mareck, von Moller, Gustav Antoni and Dr. Sellerbeck.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Mr. G. H. Richter and Mr. P. Shevant.

Per *Bisagno*, from Singapore, Mr. G. E. Wake.

Per *Doric*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. Thos. Cratty, Mrs. J. Carroll and child, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Cooper, Miss A. W. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Eva, Mr. Dennison Gray, Miss Jessie M. Johnson, Mr. W. E. Selleck, Mr. O. Struckmeyer, Misses X. M. and M. E. Talmage, Messrs. O. Wagner, W. K. Chisholm, Geo. J. Wesley, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Moore, Mr. W. Sampson, Dr. Turnure, Messrs. G. H. Holden, W. E. Wheate, Carl Muller, C. S. Coy, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. F. Dominguez and infant, Dr. A. Farenholt, U.S.N., Mr. W. Inman, Mr. J. H. Rowen, Baroness Trauben-berg, Mme. and Mlle. Arloff, and Mr. Bassilevski.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Mr. Blanche.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Mrs. Rowan and child, Capt. Shimatona, Messrs. Rolff and Figaul.

Per *Taiyuan*, from Melbourne, &c., Miss Macleod, Messrs. Macleod and Blakemore and Lieut. Wells, U.S.V.

Per *Tonkin*, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Mr. A. Moses; from Nagasaki, Miss Shamazaki; from Shanghai, Messrs. Josés Pichel, Sassoon, Jack, Aron Lamb, Nee Armand, Meho Charles, Jeannot, J. Mambe, Miss Kuranars, Messrs. W. D. Charles and Bryde; for Saigon, from Yokohama, Mr. Woodward and Miss Damballe; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Olivier and Fagandet; from Shanghai, Sister Marie Rodeck; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. Mitsuma; from Shanghai, Mr. W. E. Clarke and Miss Anaka; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson and Mr. Abdul Kador; from Kobe, Mr. Koiltzumi; for Pondichery, from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Prunier; for Suez, from Shanghai, Mr. Scharcemberg and Miss Lily Scharcemberg; for Port Said, from Nagasaki, Messrs. Korminsky, Daslensky, Saligugof and Ivanoff; from Shanghai, Messrs. de Prez, Fillotoff, Brudem-burg, Monastine, le Comte Cavernie, Messrs. Azarieff, Vassieff, Mrs. Fareal, Mr. and Mrs. Mamo; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Guibert, Messrs. Durand, Loup, Favre Brand and Miss Balmes; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Brand and Malle Jae; from Shanghai, Mr. Cousin, Mrs. Jadot, Messrs. de St. James, Van Leer, Labat Jean, Baroux, L. Bridoux, Pila, Jack, Tulyre, P. M. Tulyre, Browne, Percebois, Milincowich, Donesmard, Wiedlich, Genezin, Le Bourge and Gourmelin.

Per *Taisang*, from Shanghai, Capt. and Mrs. Tamplin and Mr. Krag.

Per *Pakhoi*, from Wuhu, &c., Messrs. G. Mc-Cullough and T. W. McDonald.

Per *Catherine Apcar*, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs. Belson and child, Mrs. McLellan and child, Mrs. and Miss Atkinson, Mrs. Carnegie, Messrs. Stewart, Gurney, C. Paul Chater, Read, Stevens, Yashawa, A. Bruyns, Mr. and Mrs. Solomon.

Per *Australian*, from Sydney, Lady Ailesbury, Mrs. Fawcett and two children, Mrs. Laing and four children, Mrs. Wright and child, Mrs. Skelton, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Stephens, Misses Scarr (3), Louison (2), Martin and Rowe, Capt. Fawcett, Messrs. Scarr, Harris, Martin, Doyle, Martin, Stephens, Capel, Skelton, Noakes, Wynter, Grant, Webster, Stretton, Cole, Mears, Bowron, Cornford and Forbes; from Timor, Mr. Gonsalves; from Manila, Messrs. Derrick and Sahi Sevira and Mr. and Mrs. Jenks.

Per *Ernest Simons*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Pasquet; from Batavia, Mr. Klatte; from Singapore, Mrs. Warne and daughter, Mr. G. Wolf, Mrs. Stanford, Messrs. Buchanan, C. H. Best, Joa da Viga Leite, S. C. Martin, Mrs. Ochigo, Mr. Paul Fette, Mr. and Mrs. Jacquemot, Mr. and Mrs. Ullmann and three children; from Saigon, Messrs. Tibbey, Martinet, Hadenfhi Idt, Dollfus and Bailly; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Messrs. John Mavrogordat and de Beaufort, Monsgr. Guertz, Mr. and Mrs. Bernheim, Mr. and Mrs. E. Bernheim, Mr. and Mrs. Trouillet, Monsgr. Favier, Messrs. Ploton, Bernert, Jeannot, Mercier, Senal, Valmer, A. Verdier, Mrs. Bernot, Mr. Daniel, Revs. Devienne, Briant, Choquet and Vioul, Mr. Edeline, Mrs. Paquini, Revs. Dekkert, Pouzi, Lobbe and Better, Sisters Gabrielle; Francoise, Félicité and Louise; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Stecher; from Singapore, Mrs. Paul, Mrs. Cigall, Mrs. Perestein, Mrs. Green and Mrs. Stein; from Saigon, Rev. Alexandre Raison, Mrs. Brinini, Mrs. Cavagrandi, Messrs. Colesse and Rigal; for Nagasaki, from Saigon, Messrs. Colombier and Galzi; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Messrs. Juan Giol, Montavon and Garriga Monco; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Saunder and two children; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. Guignard, Mr. and Mrs. Carpentier and child; Messrs. Frisk and Kracutler, Mrs. Philippot and three children, Messrs. Nakas, Sishido, Mishiwo, Fusas Yosukawa, Protopotow, Lackchenitz, H. Fujata, Bymin Kohitson, Nagaska, D. Souche and Miss Ida Renault; from Port Said, Rev. P. Rey; from Suez, Mr. Banichitrite; from Singapore, Mrs. Suzor; from Saigon, Mr. Hallein.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Rev. Mothe, Filicia, Sister Anna, Mr. Clark, Mr. Spornhill and Capt. Selionberg.

Per *Hakata Maru*, from Singapore, Mr. K. Airy, Mrs. Sampson Way, Messrs. W. H. Cleasley, Platt, E. Eden, H. J. C. Large, Baker, White, A. Frowein, Mr. and Mrs. Colquhoun, Messrs. R. Bann, Craig, Elder, Kay, Logan and Mr. and Mrs. Moosdon.

Per *Diamante*, from Manila, Mr. Ross, Mrs. Cooper, Miss Van Buren, Capt. Clement, Mrs. C. Lister, Mr. C. Lister, jr., Mrs. Moricerte, Mr. C. Pollard, Mrs. Wilbes, Mr. and Mrs. Ricttus and child, Mr. C. Tomas, Lieut. Fortescue, Messrs. P. Rippee, Lieb, L. C. Upham and C. Cerman.

Per *Bengal*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Surgeon W. Jackson, Lieut. G. O. Robney, Pte. E. Evans, Pte. Whitehouse, Messrs. J. L. Hutcheson, M. P. Broderson, G. McBain, R. Lyons, J. H. Back and Waldthausen; for Bombay, Col. Shone and Capt. Willoughby; for Marseilles, Mr. J. Smith; for London, Mr. A. W. Pritchard, Major MacLurcan, Pte. T. Randall, Lieut. Sharpe, R.N., Mrs. and Miss Gye and infant.

DEPARTED.

Per *Loongsang*, for Manila, Mrs. Suma Sakai, Mr. and Mrs. R. Tanaka, Mr. and Mrs. Hiramatsu, Messrs. Thomas L. Dawson, H. E. Tornell, R. J. Kennedy, W. Van Buskirk, Mrs. Rothman and Mr. M. P. Baird.

Per *Stuttgart*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Ferreira, Mr. E. F. Ferreira, Miss Innes, Lieut.-Col. Randall, Messrs. J. McKie, F. X. Rodriguez, J. Peisovao, W. H. Boyd, G. Jameson, Mrs. M. V. C. Silva, Mrs. M. J. Silva, Mrs. Evans, Messrs. W. Jack, C. Bertram and E. Schlee; for Nagasaki, Miss O. Kiko, Dr. Fabricius, and Mr. E. Schlee; for Yokohama, Lady Freeling, Misses Greenwood and C. Apitzsch and Mr. E. Faber.

Per *Tonkin*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Messrs. Michel, J. Lavoal, E. Pleinte and Xavier; for Singapore, Messrs. Newson and P. Johns Mrs. Carroll and child; for Marseilles, Hon. A. M. Thomson, Messrs. Tremchon, Guillien, P. Chavant, Dr. J. Mailer, Mrs. Clark, Baroness Raush Tragibenberg, Bro. G. Henré, Revs. C. Gratuze and J. Lavessiere.

Per *Perla*, for Manila, Mrs. C. N. Ferrier, Mr. C. S. Weir, Mrs. J. C. Mehn, Mr. I. Burros and family, Mrs. Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Dominguez, Mr. G. A. Reyes, Mr. and Mrs. B. Koga, Mr. M. Ignacio and Master Romos.

Per *China*, for Shanghai, Mr. J. A. Pond, Mrs. F. L. Crompton, Mr. Albert Wilson, Mrs. F. de Froncier, Miss S. J. Devonshire, Lieut. and Mrs. J. H. Rowen, Miss Florence Rowen, Messrs. T. J. Harman and L. S. Lewis and Mrs. Carnegie; for Nagasaki, Messrs. K. Lehman, L. C. Loyd and Chas. T. Gray; for Kobe, Mr. W. Eckert; for San Francisco, Capt. Cal-bry M. Chester, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Robson, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Moore, Mr. C. M. Chester, jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Cox, Messrs. Thos. Contly, W. E. Sellick, Trevor R. Plakeman, Miss J. McLeod, Mr. D. McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Cooper, Mr. E. F. Gellotte, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Jenks, Mrs. E. L. Gellotte, Messrs. T. Martin, T. H. Martin, Miss E. G. Martin, Messrs. A. L. Everett, R. Stanley, J. Bradford and Louis Lambert; for London, Mr. R. D. Ormsby, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Farnsworth, Dr. Robley, Messrs. Browne, R.N., Jas. McKie and J. H. Lewis.

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